FOURTH BUTTON WINNER A3

STEELE COUNTY Times

MEDFORD & NRHEG GRADUATION TAB INSIDE

www.steeledodgenews.com TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Owatonna voters reject new high school

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

By a slim margin, voters in the Owatonna School District rejected a plan to build a new high school.

During a special election on Tuesday, May 14, the bond referendum failed by only 120 votes. Final results show 5,762 voters or 50.52% said no to the referendum while 5,642 voters or 49.47% said yes.

The widest disparity of votes arose out of Clinton Falls precinct, which includes much of the rural areas of the district. In Clinton Falls, the referendum was soundly defeated by more than 70% of the votes with 1,277 people voting against and 456 voting for it.

Owatonna was not alone with a failed referendum. Nearly all rural referendums failed last week while all Metro referendums passed.

"We are very disappointed with the vote results," said Mark Sebring, chairman of the Owatonna School Board. "Our needs are real, and the funding does not exist to address them."

Sebring said the only way the district can adequately tackle the on-going maintenance needs and learning environment issues at the high school is through voter-approved taxpayer funding.

> "We are **very disappointed** with the vote results. Our **needs are real,** and the funding does not exist to address them."
>
> **Mark Sebring**
> School Board Chair

Officials say the bond rejection will have major implications on the district. Some of them include $22 million plus in-kind donations from local businesses may not be given in the future, construction costs climbing up to 6.5% annually and ongoing maintenance projects at the high school will impact the current budget.

The district also pointed out that students will continue to learn on outdated industrial and agricultural equipment that do not reflect current trends in the areas of manufacturing, engineering and ag science. In addition, the Career Pathways initiative, which ensures students are college, career and life ready,

SEE **OWATONNA REFERENDUM, A3**

County accepts courthouse roof bid, approves wedding center

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

With the possibility of increased taxes due to Tuesday's referendum, the Steele County Board of Commissioners carefully navigated costs with an eye towards frugal spending while also moving forward on the necessary repairs to the county courthouse.

The courthouse roof has been in need of repair for some time now, and the board knew that it would be an important item looming on this year's agenda. Although the board initially considered opting for metal-coated roof shingles, in the end it was determined that due to the lay of the roof, these would not be a good option.

"I'd like a metal roof," Commissioner Rick Gnemi said while considering the options. "However, I think we're better off putting the asphalt up there." Gnemi and the board were in agreement that a metal roof would not be feasible in face of the erratic shape of the courthouse roof.

The board awarded the contract to the low bid of $299,634 to Schwickert's Tecta America, LLC. While they are still pursuing insurance options, this gives the contractor the go ahead to begin to purchase shingles and ensures that the work will be done on a timely schedule.

During the meeting, the board also chose to oppose the purchase of development of the Beacon web-based mapping portal from Schneider Geospatial. Uncertainty over new taxes from a possible positive result in the Tuesday referendum and the potential to pursue the purchase further down the road were the main reasons given.

"I know this is the newest, and latest, and greatest," Commissioner Jim Abbe said. "But I'm just concerned that we've spent a lot this year, and I'm not really in favor of spending more dollars on this. I'd like to see us put that on hold and revisit it next year."

SEE **STEELE BOARD, A3**

FUN WITH SAFETY PUP

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Safety Pup had some fun with some of his friends while visiting a Blooming Prairie Police Department open house on Tuesday, May 14. Shown with Safety Pup are from left, Claudia Miller, 9; Brody Lang, 5 and Jalen Maxwell, 5. The local police department sponsored its first ever open house during National Police Week as a way for officers to get to know the citizens they are entrusted to protect and serve.

AREA MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AND EVENTS

Blooming Prairie
9:30 a.m.- Coffee and doughnuts- BP Servicemen's Club
11 a.m.- Parade from Prairie Plumbing lot to City Cemetery followed by program
After program- Picnic lunch at BP Servicemen's Club

* In case of inclement weather, all events will be at Servicemen's Club

Ellendale Area
8:15 a.m.- Holy Trinity Cemetery
9:15 a.m.- St. Aiden's Cemetery, Bath
10:15 a.m.- Geneva Community Cemetery
11:15 a.m.- First Lutheran Church, rural Ellendale
After program- Potluck at Ellendale Community Building

Owatonna
9:30 a.m.- Parade beginning at Elm Avenue and School Street (Parade heads south on Elm Avenue and ends in the fairgrounds)
Ceremony follows parade at the fairgrounds

* In case of inclement weather, program will be at 10:30 a.m. in Four Seasons Centre

For more information on Memorial Day programs, see page 7B.

It's been a good ride

Olson retires as BP's top educator

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"Will I miss it? Sure"

Speaking about his retirement from education, Blooming Prairie Schools Superintendent Barry Olson says his education career of 43 years "has been a good ride" for him.

Olson officially steps down as Blooming Prairie School District superintendent on July 1. Enter Chris Staloch, currently Blooming Prairie Elementary School principal. Staloch will succeed Olson.

Raised as what he calls a "city slicker," Olson has been completely at home in a rural community during his 36 years of residing with family in Blooming Prairie. He grew up in the Minnetonka area.

Olson is built on an athletic frame and has always been drawn to sports. Education is not all sports, however, Olson emphasizes.

Retirement will give Olson "a chance to relax and a chance not to be run by a bell, a calendar or by administrative meetings," he says. "It will be nice not having a prepared schedule and not having the responsibilities of making big decisions," he added.

Some of those big decisions revolved around declaring snow days for students and staff. Olson said Blooming Prairie declared 12 snow days this past winter, the most since he has been superintendent.

Olson said Blooming Prairie is "making up" two of those days. Special legislation was adopted this past session of the Minnesota Legislature not requiring school districts to make up snow days this winter.

Olson said he plans to spend more time at his family cabin located 12 miles northwest of Alexandria at Brandon. That cabin time, of course, will mean more time to spend with

SEE **SUPERINTENDENT RETIRES, A3**

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Barry Olson is retiring after logging 43 years in education, many of those years in Blooming Prairie, most recently as superintendent of schools.

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AREA DEATHS

Dale Garness, 83, Blooming Prairie

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

OUR VIEW

Lawmakers hold the line on governor's wants

Just in the nick of time, Minnesota lawmakers showed that they can work together to compromise, especially when it comes to such huge issues like the state's budget.

On Sunday night, legislators ended their weeks-long impasse and arrived at a hard-fought spending deal without Gov. Tim Walz's controversial gas tax hike that would have raised gas by 20 cents per gallon. Lawmakers were up against an adjournment deadline of midnight Monday.

The state's general fund will raise by about 6% under the budget plan. With the deal, both sides gave up something. The DFL governor is denied much of the revenue he sought for road improvements while republicans lost out with a health care tax they sought to end.

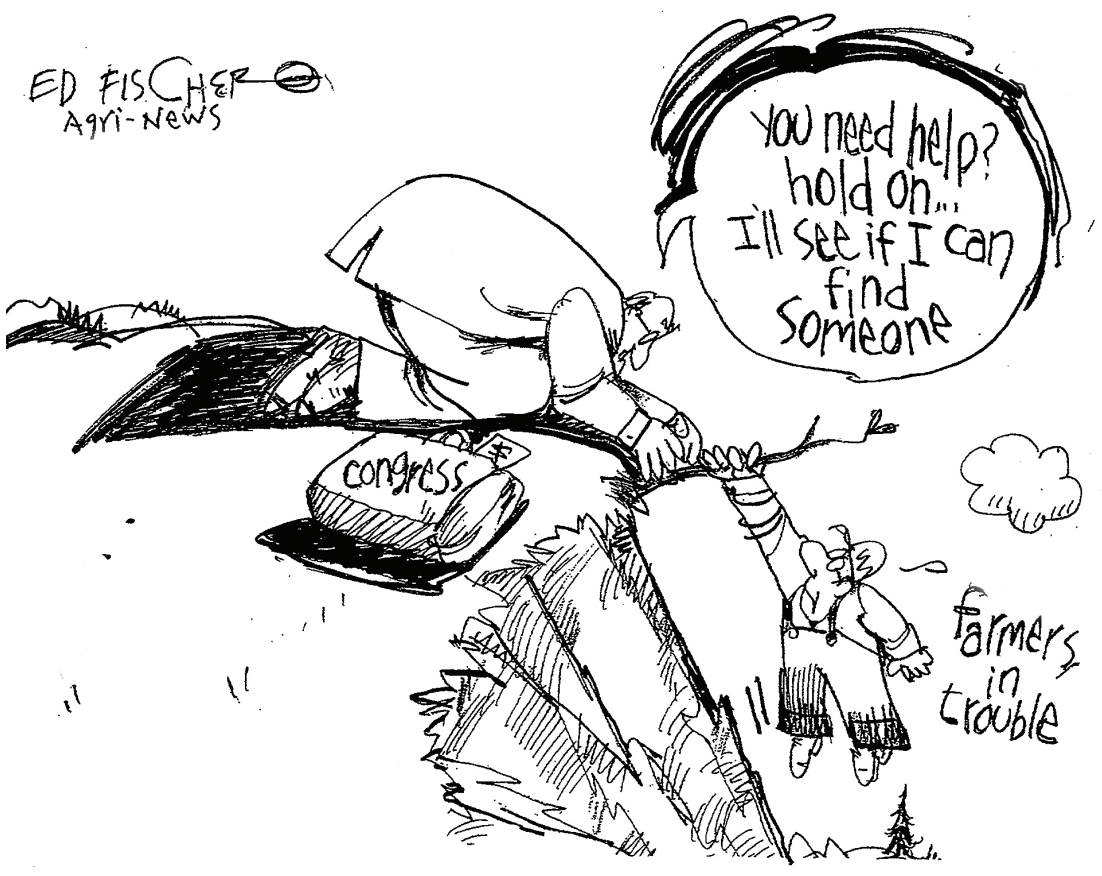
A special session will still be needed to pass the $48 billion plan.

The legislative deal is especially good news for rural Minnesota, which is undergoing rough times with a troubled farm economy. Lawmakers need to find a way to hold the line on spending, and this deal seems to be a step in that direction. As the governor pointed out in announcing the deal, divided government can work for the betterment of Minnesotans.

While there will undoubtedly be some dissention amongst people on the deal that was reached, all state government leaders who negotiated the deal are lauding it as a compromise.

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce President Doug Loon called the agreement a "wise use of state tax dolalrs." He went on to say that it funded key state priorities while protecting Minnesota taxpayers and Minnesota employers.

We want to applaud legislative leaders for coming up with a compromise rather than dragging things out and potentially forcing a government shutdown in which nobody wins.



YOUR VIEW

Senate passes responsible legislation

To the Editor:

The Minnesota Senate approved a bill ahead of its May 20th adjournment date to fund state government for the next two years if there is no agreement on the state budget. The proposal passed on a 35-31 vote. Minnesota is constitutionally required to have a balanced budget or government will shut down on July 1, 2019. The bill is a safety measure to ensure that state government continues to operate if lawmakers do not come to an agreement.

From public safety to agriculture to our state parks, Minnesotans depend on their state government huge variety of services each and every day. This is responsible legislation that makes sure Minnesota stays open. While I am still hopeful legislative leaders and the governor arrive at a compromise that meets the needs of all Minnesotans, we also must be prepared for the worst. That's what this "lights on" legislation is all about.

Senator David H. Senjem
Rochester

GUEST COLUMN

County program aid is property tax relief for state mandated programs

BY PAUL GERDE

With the House and Senate tax bills off the floor and into conference committee to iron-out differences, action is in full-swing at the State Capitol.

While there are good things in both bills from a county perspective, they stand in stark contrast on the key issue of how to address property tax relief.

If you are a residential or business property tax payer in Minnesota, the House bill holds the clear advantage by providing vital increases to counties and local governments in general aid increases.

Counties operate as a local administrative arm of the state to carry out state-mandated programs relating to health and human services, public safety, land use, transportation, courts and other critical service areas. We do the work the state tells us to do, and the state provides the funding or "aids," to cover costs.

Well, that's how it's supposed to work anyway.

State funded County Program Aid (CPA) is a general purpose aid provided to counties by the state as an off-set to county costs for administering state-mandated programs and a recognition of the impact mandates have on local taxpayers.

It is important to note that unlike other aids, CPA provides property tax relief to every single one of Minnesota's 87 counties, which translates to every single Minnesota property taxpayer benefiting from the program.

When CPA is cut, with no corresponding mandate relief, county leaders are forced to make hard choices with limited options. In worst cases, counties are forced with increasing levies to accommodate for state mandates and no funding. This in turn, puts even more pressure on property taxpayers.

Facing a beastly $4.5 billion budget deficit in the early 2000's, Legislators put the axe to almost $200 million in CPA funds, a devastating cut that has put more pressure on local property tax payers ever since.

Even so, resourceful counties can make a little go a long way. A much-needed 2017 formula change and nominal aid increase, along with some strategic belt-tightening, allowed rural Stevens County to bring some welcome relief to county property owners.

Stevens County aid dropped by about $1 million from the crash in 2003, until it flat-lined at around $147,000 in 2016. The 2017 formula change and aid package lifted their CPA back up to around $500,000 – or half of what they received before the deficit cuts. They applied the revenues to directly offset property taxes and were able to reduce their 2017 operating levy from 7.96% to 1.5% the following year.

While counties continue to labor under any number of unfunded mandates – Stevens County CPA was more than swallowed-up this year by a 10% unfunded human service mandate – we appreciate the House provision to restore CPA to 2001 levels in its current tax package.

While the legislature continues to deliberate, we do look forward to making our case for further investment in County Program Aid as part of the mission for true property tax relief for Minnesotans.

Paul Gerde is chairman of Minnesota Rural Counties, and he also serves as a commissioner in Pope County.

A time for remembrance, not summer fun

Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

May is a time of memorial remembrances.

In the coming week, many people will be heading out to area cemeteries to remember loved ones who have gone on from this world. Memorial Day will be observed across the region on Monday.

While Memorial Day has turned into the unofficial start of the summer season, it's important to not forget its real meaning.

It was formerly known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States. Many people visit memorials on Memorial Day as a great way to show their respect.

Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union soldiers who had died during the American Civil War. Approximately 620,000 soldiers on both sides died during the Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. After World War I, it was extended to include all men and women who died in any way or military action.

There are a number of observances across the region on Monday, and I encourage everyone to pay their respects to the fallen by attending a service.

Another special remembrance that takes place in May is National Police Week, which was marked last week. During the special week, it's important to not forget police officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice in trying to keep their communities safe.

In Steele and Dodge counties, there have been five officers who have died in the line of duty. They include Ole Havey, village marshal with Hayfield on Dec. 30, 1905, Neil R. Johnson, police chief with Blooming Prairie on Dec. 22, 1951, Gregory L. Lange, police chief in Claremont on July 5, 1988, Douglas Eugene Claassen, police chief with Hayfield on March 13, 1999 and Loring Guenther, captain with Dodge County on Sept. 10, 2013.

A statewide memorial service was held on the grounds of the State Capitol last week as well as a memorial service for southeastern Minnesota in Rochester on May 10.

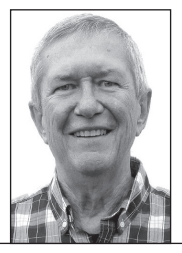
While it's important to remember the sacrifices of those that have died serving their communities, it's equally important to remember those officers who are currently serving and face dangerous situations every day.

Peace Officers Memorial Day allows us to pay tribute to the local, state and federal law enforcement officers who serve and protect us with courage and dedication. When we're fleeing danger, they're running into it to save us.

I hope you will take a few moments to pause and remember those who have died to maintain our freedom and safety. It's the least we can do for being able to enjoy the great America we call home.

It's time to go in hot pursuit of remembering fallen police officers, soldiers and others over the next few days.

Papa bear made his mark in BP



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

"Who is Papa Bear any way?

He's some type of a guy who is loved by family and by many he associated with during his 43 years in education.

This nickname is one that his grandchildren have attached to him. He most recently went public at a retirement party with the moniker when he pulled a t-shirt over his head to review his nickname, "Papa Bear."

I've only known Barry Olson, soon-to-be retired, for about five years but during that time, I have learned that this super educator was well respected by students and staff in Blooming Prairie and other surrounding districts.

Olson is retiring as BP superintendent of schools on June 30.

Olson was also highly respected for his involvement in the community, especially as a two-time chairman of the First Lutheran Church Council and as a former president of the Blooming Prairie Lions Club.

This administrator reached the top rung by becoming superintendent of Blooming Prairie 12 years ago. During that time, he made some difficult decisions. Many of them were financial decisions.

More importantly, Barry made decisions that helped lead students to their goals in life.

During his teaching and administrative years, Barry displayed a calm demeanor. He sometimes seemed to be too serious but that characteristic carried him to many successes during his education career.

Barry was the target of a mini roast on Friday night, May 17 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

The roast was more serious than adversarial as Olson's friends and family couldn't help but accent the many positives Olson displayed.

Principal John Worke was master of ceremonies for the event, and recited some of Olson's favorite sayings.

One of them was "Help, hustle and have fun." Another was "There's a right way and a wrong say." Yet, another one was "I don't care what you do but if I were you. . . "

Worke quoted former teacher Bob Nahlovsky as saying that when Olson became a part-time superintendent, nobody noticed.

Rodney Krell, chairman of the BP Schoool Board, said Olson had an "amazing career" in education. "He always made decisions based on what's best for students," Krell said.

Krell praised Olson for his positive leadership and for the positive culture he created in Blooming Prairie.

Olson's three children, Kari, Kristin and Kraig chose to throw out positive superlatives for their father.

Kraig said his father made a lasting mark "on all of us." Taking a slight swipe at his dad, Kraig said, "The crowd (100 people) here tonight is a testament of how many people it takes to make you look good."

When it was time for him to take the podium, Olson said quality relationships were important to him and were based on faith, family and friends.

Olson chose two words that he has lived by: consistent and constant.

Olson outlined three highlights in his education career:

- Graduates of BPHS were top quality.
- Facilities have been improved over the years.
- Technology has been improved.

Barry Olson is one fine human being, and I am proud to say I have known him, only if it is over a short period of time. He is one person that is easy to get to know.

Thanks Papa Bear for devoting your life to the education of kids. You always knew what was best for kids as they went through educational channels.

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Let's get poppin' with the Fourth festival

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Things are starting to pop around Blooming Prairie with the upcoming Fourth of July celebration.

On Thursday, Chamber director Becky Noble surprised the fourth graders during their lunch hour at Blooming Prairie Elementary School with the announcement of this year's button contest winner. The design created by Jaspher Sayles has been picked as the winner.

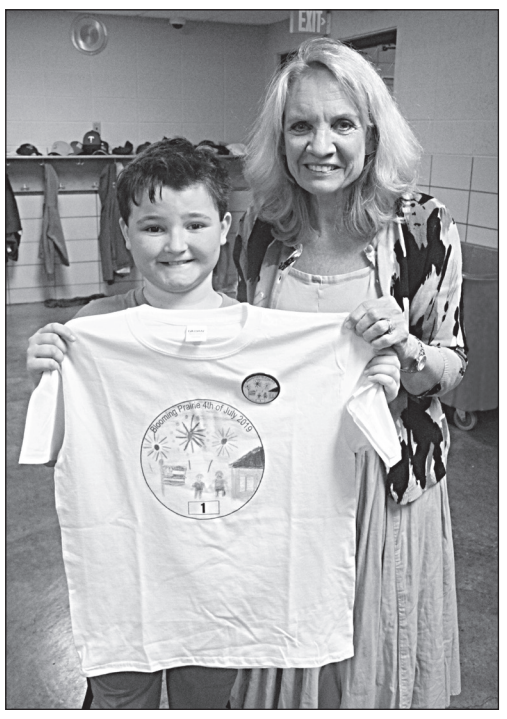
For his efforts, Sayles received the very first button for the celebration as well as a t-shirt with his winning design on the front. His design has an American flag and some colorful sparklers lighting up the sky with some people enjoying the celebration.

"We had a lot of good ones this year," commented Noble. "It was one of the better years."

As has been tradition in Blooming Prairie, fourth graders have the opportunity to submit designs for the button contest. The winning entry is chosen by a group of senior citizens, according to Noble.

The Chamber will be kicking off the Fourth celebration this week with door-to-door button sales in Blooming Prairie Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. Buttons will then be available at area businesses.

The buttons will be $3.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Blooming Prairie Chamber director Becky Noble presents Jaspher Sayles with a T-shirt and button Thursday morning at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. Sayles created the winning design for this year's Fourth of July celebration in BP. He was awarded the very first button for the celebration as well as having his design put on a T-shirt.

OWATONNA: *Referendum* FROM A1

will not be fully implemented, officials said.

"Our job as school leaders is to provide a quality learning environment for all our students," said Superintendent Jeff Elstad. "We owe it to our students and staff to determine why voters did not support this plan to improve the educational environment which will benefit all of our district students."

Elstad said the school board and administration will discuss ways to determine why the community was not supportive of the request, especially given the extensive planning process and work of the Community Task Force on Facilities that resulted in the ballot question.

Marlene Nelson, who spearheads a group called Concerned Owatonnans for Public Education, was pleased with the results of the referendum. Her group maintained the district does not have a specific plan for a new school design. COPE also argued the bond would raise property taxes by about 15%.

"People can't afford this," Nelson said. "It's way too much for this town."

Nelson suggested taxpayer money would be better spent on aging infrastructure throughout the community, including sewer lines and roads. "Things need to be fixed," she said.

She also questioned some of the misinformation provided by school officials leading up to the referendum. "When you don't have truth on your side, you're not going to be ethical," Nelson said.

COPE remains committed to helping come up with a reasonable plan for the community. "Our goal is to not only empower our young learners, but to also protect taxpayer resources," COPE says.

Nelson thinks school officials will waste no time in coming right back at taxpayers with another referendum. "COPE is not going away," she says. "We will be ready for them to come back," she said, adding COPE will always remain vigilant on this issue.

Paul Peltier, who monitors referendums around the state, tweeted after last week's elections: "The Minnesota legislature must recognize the disparity and the difficulty for rural communities and step up to the plate to fund our future."

RETIREMENT: *Barry Olson* FROM A1

wife Diane and their three children and six grandchildren.

The Olsons' three children and their children are: Kristin Schneider (Ben), Sophie, 6, Mark, 2; Kari Bodurtha (Aaron), Nora, 8, Payton, 6 and and Kraig (Kristina), Ryker, 3 and Rhett, 1.

Diane and Barry have been married for 42 years.

He is a 1972 graduate of Minnetonka High School and a 1976 graduate of Dana College in Blair, NE with a BA degree in general science education. The college has since closed. "I have to go to Lincoln for my transcripts, Olson says.

Olson's first teaching job, a junior high science gig, was in Omaha. He then taught science and math for six years at Blair, Neb.

Olson applied for a basketball coaching position at Blair. This was fate because he did not get the job and it led him to inquire about a math and science teaching position in Blooming Prairie.

The Blooming Prairie job was his after he chose it over two other offers he received the same day, one at BOLD and the other at an Iowa school.

"Blooming Prairie was the best fit and I love it still," Olson remarked.

Olson taught in Blooming from 1983-87 and then went to Owatonna to become head girls basketball coach. He also taught junior high science. He stayed there 12 years, still living in Blooming Prairie.

After gaining his principal's license, Olson began looking and accepted a high school principal position in 1999.

The superintendent's tag was applied to Olson in 2001 when the BP board asked him to be principal and superintendent. The district was in dire financial need at the time, seeing statutory operating debt.

Olson wore both hats for 14 years. He went to part time in 2015. As superintendent, Olson was contracted with School Administrative Specialty Services.

During his time as superintendent, Olson created positions to benefit students and the community. The district activities director and assistant principal duties were merged. Also, the responsibilities of community education, test coordinator and administrative assistant were given to Susan Kramer.

Olson said he knew in high school that he wished to enter the education field as a teacher and coach. His father was a history teacher and also coached.

Olson played basketball and baseball, both in high school and college. He is a member of the Dana College Hall of Fame.

During his teaching and administrative career in education, Olson said he always believed in putting students first.

Olson became a proponent of self-directed teaching in the 1980s and 90s. "Some students learn easier than others," he says. "Expect students to show respect and you usually get it in return," Olson believes.

As a principal, Olson said it was like being coach of a building. "You have to deal with students, staff and parents," he explained. "I believe in doing the best for kids and in helping develop programs to enhance education," Olson continued.

"We want to give students the skills they need to do what they want to do whether it be becoming a farmer, attorney and doctor.

"My own kids appreciate the education they received here."

As superintendent, Olson dealt with everyone and faced some critical decisions, he said. Those decisions often covered funding, transportation, legislation and public relations.

As a district administrator, Olson said he watched students become good citizens. The district also implemented programs enhance education opportunities. He listed technology, curriculum improvement at the elementary level, enhancement of the pre-school program and implementation of robotics and college within the school.

"We take care of our students," Olson affirmed. Blooming Prairie students develop the skills they need to succeed in life, he says.

Olson praises the Blooming Prairie staffs. "Our employees, which total about 100, are always trying to improve their communities," he commented. That staff total includes 63 certified teachers but does not include transportation and food service workers.

Staff members are "very talented, dependable and do a good job for us," Olson said.

Looking at accomplishments he shares with others in education, Olson said he believes the Blooming Prairie district is continually producing a quality product. That is proved by 19 juniors recently joining the Minnesota Honor Society.

With Olson at the helm, the district made some major facility improvements in 2007-08. "Our community should be proud of its school facilities," he says.

Other accomplishments include the one on one program issuing laptop computers to students in grades 10-12. The district also issued iPads to students in grades 7-9.

Olson said he has always enjoyed watching kids perform and seeing them become good citizens and leaders.

Olson places faith and family high on his priority list. "Family is the reason we live," he says.

His community is also high on the priority list. He has served as president of the BP Lions Club and also served two terms as president of the First Lutheran Church Council. He is a non-voting member of the Education Foundation and is a BP Chamber member.

Blooming Prairie school enrollment has steadily increased to 750 students. Early childhood counts an additional 50 kids.

During his stay in BP education, Olson has seen the school lose students and a staff member.

"We've had lots of fun times and enjoyed some special relationships with friends," Olson stated.

"I've always enjoyed education and it's easy to succeed when you surround yourself with good people."

"Blooming Prairie was the best fit, and **I love it still**."

Barry Olson
Retiring Superintendent

STEELE COUNTY BOARD: *Spending* FROM A1

Abbe's comments rang true to the rest of the board, who understood the need for the software in the future, but didn't want to immediately commit an additional expense towards that at this juncture. "I just think it's an added cost that we don't need at this point," Abbe said.

"In lieu of what might happen after today," he said of Tuesday's referendum. "We might need to pull back as a county if it does pass so we're not hitting the tax payers any more than they've already been hit."

The session also included much discussion over the approval of a conditional use permit, which came from a request by Melissa and James Ward to construct and operate a Wedding Ceremony Event Center with occupancy of up to 250 people. The center would be located in Section 12 of Owatonna Township. The property address is 2403 Rose St., Owatonna.

There were 13 conditions added to the approval, as well as a few amendments made by the board, including noise and parking limitations due to concerns from some neighboring residents. "I've had more feedback on this than practically any other CUP," Abbe said. "The issues that come to the forefront are mainly sound and the added sound that's going to come to the neighborhood and second the parking has been an issue as well."

The city is hoping to utilize that area for future residential development, and by including conditions and amending that list with considerations for current and future residents, the board is hoping that the event center will not be a disturbance.

In the end, the conditional use permit for the Ward Event Center was approved by all of the commissioners.

The county also moved forward with a Facilities Assessment and Capital Planning Services Agreement. The assessment will cost $37,500 and be performed by ICS Consulting, Inc.

The board felt that it was a good move at this time. "I think this will be very beneficial for us," County Administrator Scott Golberg said of the assessment. He also indicated that the assessment could end up saving money and help in the transition of a pending retirement later this year.

"The thought process here is that this is going to save us money going forward," Commissioner Abbe said. "There's a lot of things that a fresh set of eyes might see that others haven't."

Board Chair Greg Krueger also shared his thoughts on the assessment. "I think this will be money well spent, and I think we will get a chance to get ahead of some things rather than the tail wagging the dog," Krueger said.

Although they received several high bids, the county did choose to award a contract for $735,569.60 for the CSAH 1 and CSAH 34 intersection improvement. While the county has a good track record of receiving low bids, that isn't always the case.

"Some bids come in low, and some bids come in high," County Engineer Greg Ilkka explained. "To this point during our 2019 season, we've awarded two projects, and we're ahead of the game by $507,000. Our bids combined have come in that much lower," he said of the previous two contracts awarded.

Finally, the board was happy to approve a proclamation designating May 19-25 as National Public Works Week in Steele County. "These crews respond 24/7," Ilkka said of the public works employees. "It's a pleasure to be able to come and ask you to pass this proclamation to recognize all the work they've done."

This year marks the 59th year of celebrating Public Works employees through National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

More than 80 students in grades 2-6 at Blooming Prairie Elementary School were part of a Prairie Fire Theatre production of "Wizard of Oz" before the elementary student body and again before the public on Friday.

Who can bark the loudest?

Off to see the Wizard with Prairie Fire

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"Who can bark the loudest?"

That was a challenge directors Derek Brookens and Danae DeShazer leveled at a group of wanna-be Totos during tryouts for a Wizard of Oz production last week at Blooming Prairie High School.

The production carries the footprints of another professional and successful theatrical performance of the Prairie Fire Children's Theatre.

This stop by two highly acclaimed actors was Prairie Fire's eighth visit.

Prairie Fire is a professional touring theatre company based in Barrett, Minn., near Alexandria.

The Prairie Fire theatrical experience has been brought to communities across the

SEE **PRAIRIE FIRE, A4**

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Wizard of Oz is one of the all-time favorites of many. This production was on stage in Blooming Prairie last week with the Prairie Fire Theatre coming to town. Leads from left to right are: Dorothy, Ella Smith; Toto, Joe Schwarz; the Lion, Samantha Hefling; tin man, Catelin Bartlett and Auntie Em, Emmaleigh White.

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago
May 19, 2009
DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The 2008 Blooming Prairie audit shows the city is $10,701 in the black. Another positive note that was brought up by the firm conducting the audit was the taxes the residents are paying is below the average of similar-sized communities they work with.

Six fallen law enforcement heroes were honored at a special Police Memorial Service May 13 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church Cemetery. The service involved members of the Blooming Prairie Ministerium. Among those honored was fallen Blooming Prairie Police Chief Neil R. Johnson, who was gunned down on Dec. 22, 1951.

Samantha Kraling and Ryan Noble were named Students of the Month at the Steele County Exchange Club breakfast May 15. Both received a certificate, a USA flag and $50.

20 Years Ago
May 18, 1999
ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie Jaycees made a $2,000 donation to the local DARE program. Jaycee Bruce Rumpza made the presentation to Blooming Prairie Police at the elementary school. The funds will be used to fund the program's trip to see a Minnesota Twins game as a program ending activity.

Ben Hansen, an eighth grader at Blooming Prairie, was recently honored as the first-place winner in the Initiative Fund's annual Youth Business Plan competition. Hansen's entry of "The Blooming Prairie Press" received top score out of 23 plans in the contest. The school was awarded $2,000 in honor of Hansen's top achievement.

Diligence finally paid off after many months of work and discussion on a development agreement with Savage developer Merlyn Olson and the city of Blooming Prairie. The city signed the agreement with a few changes from the former agreement. Olson began a renovation project almost two years ago on the Pine View Acres Trailer Park on the south end of BP, hoping to clean up a blighted area within the city.

50 Years Ago
May 14, 1969
VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

The Blooming Prairie Jaycee Chapter held its annual inaugural banquet on Saturday evening with 53 persons in attendance at the Servicemen's Club. The Jaycee of the Year award was presented to Dr. John L. Walch during the program.

Arlie Olsen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christy Olsen, and Leslie Hansen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlo Hansen were awarded the State Farmer degree May 5 at the State FFA Convention banquet. Leslie is the chapter secretary while Arlie is District 14 FFA treasurer and chapter president.

Members of the Blooming Prairie Garden Club, Explorer Scout Post 260, Village employees and Council members participated in a "plant-in" last Saturday when months of planning culminated in the establishment of Blooming Prairie's new mini-park located on the east edge of Main Street, Blooming Prairie. A request was made to Steve McCool, a graduate student at the U of M, for help in formulating a plan for this project.

Approximately $100,000 in contributions have been received for the Prairie Manor, Inc. nursing home project in Blooming Prairie. The funds will be used for equipment and first years' operating expense. To date, a total of 772 people have made contributions towards a modern nursing home in BP. In addition, a $500,000 bond issue was voted by Blooming Prairie residents for construction of the facilities.

The Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie will celebrate its 65th anniversary in business on May 17. E.C. Habberstad is president of the sound financial institution. The bank was established on May 17, 1904 and has grown throughout the years into one of southern Minnesota's larger banks.

75 Years Ago
May 18, 1944
FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

This week in May 1904, the Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie opened its doors for business. May 1944, same week finds this strong financial institution completing 40 years of service to this community.

On the day when word arrives that the invasion of Hitler's European fortress has started, the fire siren will be sounded to call the people to private prayer. When the signal is heard, all Blooming Prairie churches will open for the remainder of that day in order that residents can go to worship and offer prayer for safety, success and ultimate victory over of our fighting forces.

Blooming Prairie's American Legion and Auxiliary fitting honored three gold star mothers of World War II Friday at the Community Building. In a simple but most impressive ceremony, in charge Legion Commander Joseph Johnson, Mrs. Andrew Peterson, Mrs. Frank E. Zwiener and Mrs. George Montgomery were made recipients of gold star pins and citation certificate awards.

Children's books awarded through SMIF program

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) recently awarded 20,000 children's books valued at $363,400 to 49 organizations through its Early Childhood Literacy Grant Program. This grant supports early literacy efforts that enhance school readiness for children birth to age five by providing children with books

The books were awarded in partnership with Capstone and ABDO, Mankato-based publishers of children's books and digital products and services. In 2002, Capstone helped launch the BookStart program, working with SMIF to distribute thousands of books to children in the region over a period of 15 years. In 2018, the Early Childhood Literacy Grant was formed as a new collaborative effort between SMIF and the two publishers to put even more books into the hands of children birth to age five. SMIF has previously partnered with both companies on collectively distributing more than 100,000 books across the region through grants and programming

"Learning to read is a foundational milestone in a child's life and incredibly important in setting up their future success," said Christie Skilbred, Capstone Corporate Giving Manager. "Capstone is honored to support early literacy efforts in the region by providing books for the Early Childhood Literacy Grant recipients. We want to congratulate all of the grant recipients this year and thank them for the important work their doing to support early literacy in their community. Helping kids succeed by making learning fun is at the heart of what we do. Through our continued partnership with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, we are able to reach and help more children in our communities succeed together."

The following area organizations were awarded Early Childhood Literacy Grants because they provide outstanding early literacy opportunities for young children and their families:

Byron Public Schools
Dodge County Public Health
Freeborn County Public Health
Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools
New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools
Steele County Public Health
Triton Public Schools, Dodge Center
Waseca County Public Health

"By reading to children, they are exposed to so many wonderful things – imagination, creating, thinking and painting a picture of the story in their mind," said Rae Jean Hansen, Vice President of Early Childhood at SMIF. "The nurturing and one-on-one attention during reading encourages children to form a positive association with books and reading."

Award recipients will be able to choose from a selection of titles donated by the publishing companies, including bilingual and early childhood appropriate books. The organizations will incorporate the books into their programs and events where young children will receive books to take home and keep.

PRAIRIE FIRE: *The Wizard of Oz* FROM A3

upper Midwest since 1987.

Prairie Fire tours offer a variety of original musical adaptations of classic tales.

Tryouts were held last Monday afternoon after school. Practices continued daily until the production went on stage before the Blooming Prairie Elementary School student body Friday afternoon and before the public Friday night. Both performances were in the Blooming Prairie High School gymnasium.

Eighty-three elementary kids in grades 2-6 were involved in the play, including 79 on stage as actors and four were back stage hands.

Brookens, 28, was making a return visit to Blooming Prairie, having directed and acted in Snow White two years ago. He played the role of the Huntsman. He was on his fourth tour with Prairie Fire, also acting in Alice in Wonderland and Tom Sawyer.

DeShazer, 32, made her first tour with Prairie Fire. Prior to this tour with Prairie Fire, she acted in other children's theatre company productions. She also acted in the McLeod Summer Playhouse in Carbondale, Ill.

Both call themselves freelance professional actors.

Brookens' hometown is Port Allegany, Pa. while DeShazer comes from Overland Park, Kan.

The characters in these Prairie Fire productions are the same as the original. "We bring the production to life with our own special choreography and staging which adds our own little flair," said DeShazer.

Brookens played the scare crow during Wizard of Oz, and DeShazer brought her talents to the stage as the Wicked Witch of the West.

"The kids fill in every role including that of Toto," Brookens said.

DeShazer says she enjoys playing the Wicked Witch role. "It's more comedic, silly and over the top," she admits. "It's kind of me, a little bit wicked and a little bit silly," she added.

In leading tryouts, Brookens and DeShazer made the kids state their name and age. They were encouraged to make their introduction in a happy tone and then in a sad tone.

"We were looking to see who they are," DeShazer said. "It was rewarding to see the kids break out of their shell," Brookens interjected.

Following the Friday performance, the duo headed for McLeod where she planned to direct "Pokadots" and "The Drowsy Chaperone" and then planned to act in "The Full Monte." Brookens planned to act in "The Full Monte" and in "Gypsy."

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Prairie Fire Theatre came to Blooming Prairie last week with the production of the "Wizard of Oz." Directing the popular production were Danae DeShazer, Wicked Witch of the West and the scarecrow, Derek Brokens.

Both Prairie actors strive to continue their acting careers. "I enjoy traveling regionally and working several companies," said DeShazer.

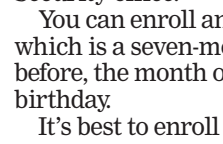
Blooming Prairie was one of the duo's smallest venues. They performed 24 times in 12 groups. Both Brookens and DeShazer said they received good feedback from parents of the young actors.

"It's been a fun experience and nice to see the kids grow during the week," smiled DeShazer.

Brookens urges young actors "to be yourself and we want to see you be a version of yourself."

"Study, learn and take lessons if you wish to continue acting," DeShazer said in directing her comments to aspiring young actors.

Understanding Medicare's Enrollment Periods



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
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583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,

What can you tell me about the different enrollment periods for Medicare? I'm planning to work past age 65 and understand Medicare offers Initial, Special and General periods in which I can enroll. How does this work?

Medicare Illiterate

Dear Medicare,

The rules for signing up for Medicare can be quite confusing, especially if you plan to work past age 65. But it's critical to understand the ins and outs of enrolling because the consequences of missing a deadline can be costly and last a lifetime. Here's what you should know about Medicare's three different enrollment periods.

INITIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD

At age 65, the Initial Enrollment Period is the first opportunity that most people are eligible to enroll in Medicare.

If you're already claiming Social Security benefits at least 4 months before age 65, you are automatically enrolled in Medicare, with coverage starting the first day of month you turn 65. If you're not receiving Social Security benefits, it's up to you to enroll in Medicare either online at SSA.gov/Medicare, over the phone at 800-772-1213 or through your local Social Security office.

You can enroll any time during the Initial Enrollment Period, which is a seven-month period that includes the three months before, the month of, and the three months after your 65th birthday.

It's best to enroll three months before your birth month to ensure your coverage starts when you turn 65.

If, however, you plan to keep working and have health coverage from your employer, or from a spouse's employer, you may want to delay Medicare Part B, which covers outpatient services, and Part D, which covers prescription drugs. But first check with the human resources department to see how your employer insurance works with Medicare.

Typically, if your employer has fewer than 20 employees, Medicare will be your primary insurer and you should enroll. But if you work for a company that has 20 or more employees, your employer's group health plan will be your primary insurer as long as you remain an active employee. If this is the case, you don't need to enroll in Part B or Part D when you turn 65 if you're satisfied with the coverage you are getting through your job. But in most cases, unless you're contributing to a Health Savings Account, you should at least sign-up for Medicare Part A, which is free and covers hospital services.

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD

If you delay Part B and Part D past age 65, you can sign up for Medicare during the Special Enrollment Period. Once you (or your spouse) stop working and you no longer have group health coverage, you have eight months to enroll in Part B. But if you miss that deadline, you'll pay a late-enrollment penalty for the rest of your life. The penalty increases your premiums by 10 percent for each 12-month period that you don't have coverage.

The window for Part D is shorter. You must sign up for Part D within two months of losing drug coverage. If you go 63 days or more without drug coverage, you'll pay a lifetime late-enrollment penalty that equals 1 percent of the monthly base premium (about $33 in 2019) times the number of months you don't have Part D of other creditable coverage.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD

If you miss either of these first two enrollment periods, you'll have to wait until the General Enrollment Period, which is January 1 through March 31 of each year, but your Part B and Part D coverage will not begin until July 1. And you'll be subject to late-enrollment penalties.

There is, however, no penalty for late enrollment for Part A. You can sign up anytime with coverage beginning the first day of the following month.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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A salute to the Fine Arts groups at Blooming Prairie

Jazz Band

Row 1: Grace Magnuson, Madison Thurnau, Samuel Michaud. Row 2: Dondi Stender, Bradley Simon, Elizabeth Branstedt, Ross Reishus

7th Grade Choir

Row 1: Sienna Fyksen, Lilly Schammel, Kadynce Hansen, Breckin Cochlin, Kaiden Chicos, Malachi Gonzales, Elizabeth Miner, Jada Zamanipa, Madison Sorenson, Elizabeth Dohrmann Row 2: Jamie Reinke, Annaka Forsberg, Rogue Ruberdor, Tyress Suhl, Cale Braaten, Dustin Sorenson, Justin Bingham, Kaiden Alwes, Macy Lembke, Rachel Winzenburg, Carly Mcintosh Row 3: Holly Davis, Layla Lembke, Anna Haberman, Carson Strand, Mason Simon, Karter Snyder, Tyler Forystek, Benjamin Riley, Hannah Freeze, Addison Doocy, Kylee Loth, Kari Bottin

8th Grade Choir

Row 1: Olivia Anderson, Jenna Johnson, Ava Kreijci, Bailey Brown, Kaleb Sapien, Jesse Cardenas, Joie Ruther, Heidi Judy, Aubrie Brandt. Row 2: Kari Bottin, Abigail Hetling, Anna Reese, Elliot Swenson, Zander Peterson, Aidan Holmes, Tyler Miller, Cyprus Schleicher, Lilyanna Bakken, Anna Suchanek, Brittany Johnson Row 3: Anna Pauly, Madison Lea, Sierra Larson, Cobey Sandte, Micah Donelly, Alexander Riley, Jayden Schewe, Cade Christenson, Leah Thorson, Haven Carlson, Madelaine Stoen, Hannah Hamersma

Senior Choir

Row 1: Kennedy Lembke, Melanie Winzenburg, Carson Brennecke, Chris Burke, Jason King, Cody Nirk, Alivia Schneider, Hannah Kinny, Emily Miller. Row 2: Sydney McCarthey, Jaclyn Hyland, Grace Brekke, Ethan Ehlers, Garrett Weckworth, Samuel Skillestad, Josie Lorenz, Adrianna Bermea. Row 3: Ms. Bottin, Brett Motl, Payton Fristedt , Ian Wayne , Adam Walsh , Drew Kittleson, Bobbie Bruns, Courtney Espe, Graci Svoboda

Junior High Band

Row 1: Olivia Anderson, Natalie Scheper, Cameron Blume, Luke Heimgartner ,Madison Thurnau, Grant Magnuson , Molly Robins, Anika Sunde, Lilly Wacek. Row 2: Clare Rennie, Gabriel Hein, Shawntee Snyder, Kolby Vigeland, Samuel Michaud, Zachary Hein, Hailey Schumacher, Alexis Steckelberg. Row 3: Sophie Thompson, Shanna Halverson, Molly Robins Jay lee Schliecher, Aidan Slowinski, Mason Brown, Claire Foster, Hailey Hensrud, Susan Smith Row 4: Samuel Smith, Samuel Pirkl, Stirling Hart, Mr. Reishus, Derek Kubicek, Ethan Marzolf, Maxmar Ogren

Music Listening

Row 1: Ross Reishus, Viridiana Villarreal, Asha Lighthizer, Elizabeth Bramstedt

Senior High Band

Row 1: Jaydon Brown, Hailey Barneson, Asha Lighthizer, Jordyn Sanchez, Alexis Ripka, Grace Magnuson, Marquette Millam. Row 2: Mckenzie Jensen, Isabelle Sunde, Maggie Bruns, Caleb Wacek, Kiya Thompson, Allison Krohnberg, Larisa Judy. Row 3: Elizabeth Bramstedt, Bradley Simon, Dawson Sorensen, Emily Kubicek, Emily Anderson, Shyane Jorgenson, Rachel Thompson, Dondi Stender. Row 4: Viridiana Villarreal, Gustaof Ogren, Tyler Iverson, Mr. Reishus, Gretchen Sunde, Colton Krell, Parker Kubicek

Chamber Choir

Row 1: Jaclyn Hyland, Melanie Winzenburg, Grace Breldce, Courtney Espe. Row 2: Riley Millam, Ms. Bottin, Ian Wayne

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DEATH NOTICE

Dale Garness, 83, Blooming Prairie

Dale Garness, 83, of Blooming Prairie passed away on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. A private service is being planned for the family. A full obituary will appear in next week's Times.

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Recipe Corner

CALIFORNIA TACOS

SAUTÉ:
1 lb. hamburger
½ cup chopped onion
½ tsp. garlic
1 Tbsp. butter

BRING TO A BOIL:
1 can tomato soup
2 ½ cups water
6 oz. tomato paste
1 tsp. oregano
1 tsp. cumin
2 tsp. sugar
1 ½ tsp. salt
2 dashes Tabasco
1 dash chili powder
2/3 cup minute rice

DIRECTIONS
Add hamburger mixture to tomato mixture and simmer for 30 minutes. Serve over Frito corn chips. Top with lettuce and shredded cheese. Sour cream is optional.

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BIRTH

Crooks welcome twins into world

Taylor and Justin Crooks announce the birth of their twin boys, Crosby Fred and Conley Eino Crooks.

The twins were born on May 3, 2019 at 10:33 and 10:34 a.m. They weighed 6 lbs. 8 ozs. and 6 lbs 12 ozs. while being 19 ½ and 19 inches in length.

Grandparents of the twins are Fred and Lori Kindschy of Hayfield, Rick and Corinne Kolbe of Medford and Al and Jean Crooks of Wausau.

COLLEGE NEWS

BP student honored for leadership

Jake Hyland of Blooming Prairie has been awarded the Applied Excellence in Game Design Award at Bradley University in Peoria.

The Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts announced the remainder of its Spring Semester 2019 Awards for outstanding students at Bradley University.

Hyland is a class of Junior Game Design major at Bradley.

Bradley University is a top-ranked, private university in Peoria, Ill., offering 5,400 undergraduate and graduate students the resources of a larger university and the personal attention of a smaller university. More than 185 academic programs are offered in business, communications, education, engineering, fine arts, health sciences, liberal arts and sciences, and technology.

Owatonna student named to Dean's List

Natalie Greiner of Owatonna was among more than 800 students at Bob Jones University to be named to the Spring 2019 Dean's List.

Greiner is a senior accounting major.

The Dean's List recognizes students who earn a 3.0-3.74 GPA during the semester.

Jones University is located in Greenville, S.C.

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Y	J	P	J	Q	C	Y	N	Z	P	V	I	X	L	Q

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BOOK NOOK

Reading nourishes the brain

NANCY VAILLANCOURT

What do you think is the perfect resource to nourish your brain? Fish oil? Turmeric? Puzzles? Exercise? While the popular media reports on these trends, scientific studies say that the cheapest, easiest, and most time-tested way to keep your brain sharp is to...read!

In the March 2019 issues of Reader's Digest, several university studies are cited. Please take a look at the full article for the details, but here is a summary of the findings:

- Reading, not just listening or watching a film, encourages the brain to work harder and better.

- Reading helps you comprehend and evaluate the information more easily than oral language.

- Reading more difficult literary works increases blood flow to some areas of the brain. Easier reading helps to a lesser degree.

- Those who have difficulty reading can improve their brain functions by continuing to read. The study showed that remedial reading classes helped the students' brains to rewire the entire brain.

Come see us at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. We will be happy to help you find books to challenge you, or just books for you to enjoy. See you at the library!

Low back pain affects about 85% of people at some point in their life. Chiropractic can help!

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Birthdays

May 21
Jessica Kruckeberg
Dawn Ingvalson

May 22
Tricia Imker
Isabella Schiller
Howard Lestrud
Roger Hein

May 23
Nelda Haberman
Alicia Levon

May 24
Jacob Peterson
Margaret Swenson
Sawyer Emanuel
Leah Thompson
Lexi Lamontagne

May 25
John Welch
Porter Francis DeYoung
Maddie Broten Anderson

May 26
Alyssa Ressler
Sean Ingvalson
Connie Williamson
Justin Kormann
Miranda Klemmensen

May 27
Mary Malherek
Amy Simon
Jenny Haugen
Darrick Schewe

May 28
Jennifer Wondra
Jill Lindeman
Kristin Lueth Koenig
Isaac Ille

Anniversaries

May 21
Fran & Cheryl Coughlin
Emma & Stephen Basness
Rick & Cheri Krejci

May 22
Per & Andrea Kvalsten

May 23
Greg & Laura Thomas

May 24
Paul & Jackie Smith
Val & Ashley Garcia
Clarence & Diana Boyd

May 25
Mr. and Mrs. L. Dean Christianson

May 26
Steve & Nellie Wollenburg
Sarah & Adam Bumgarner

May 28
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Krell

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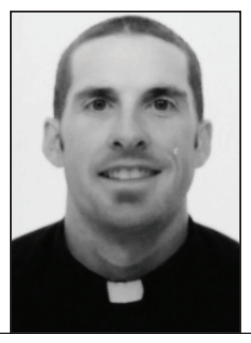
PASTOR'S COLUMN

Light of the Lamb



Father Tom Niehaus
ST. COLUMBANUS & SACRED HEART CATHOLIC BLOOMING PRAIRIE AND HAYFIELD

Having a night-light as a child was an important source of security for me during the night time hours. That little light shining in the darkness helped me to see just enough of my surroundings to know that I would be ok during the time my eyes were closed and I entered into sleep.

Once I was old enough to go to school, I didn't use the night-light any more, but instead had glow-in-the-dark stickers around my room that made a little light and still brought peace to my mind and heart as I faced the dark of night. Eventually as I got older, I just had a lamp on a stand next to my bed that I could turn on and off when I wanted to see at night.

Maybe you were like me when I was growing up and needed the assurance of some light in the darkness to know that your surroundings were secure and that the unknown sights and sounds in the darkness would be ok.

In this week's second Reading from the Book of Revelation, St. John the Evangelist notes, "I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the

Lamb. The city had no need of sun and moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb (21:22-23)."

This passage reveals that the Lamb of God—Jesus Christ—is the true light that shines in the darkness of this world. Christ is present throughout the Church; no temple in Jerusalem is needed as an earthly dwelling for God as in the time before Jesus. Our Lord spoke to His disciples saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (John

8:12)."

Each of us can have fears about living in the world and being overcome by those things that sit in the darkness. With Jesus Christ as our light and in putting our trust in Him, He will light our way upon the path of our lives and lead us in freedom and peace to our homeland in eternal life. Jesus will help us to face our fears and anxieties when we call upon Him.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation
Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches
Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW.,
Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Walerius
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship Service- 9 a.m.
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-451-3854
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
Pastor Mark Neumann
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA
9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
507-465-8366
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour:
10:15 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Brennan
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School
(Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN-- ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave.
Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight DoBell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m..

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Pastors: Todd Buegler & Amanda Weinkauf
Deacon: Kris Oppegard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Worship: 8 a.m.
& 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
57043 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-6353
Father James Starasinich
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Raul Silva
Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar
507-465-8217
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Sauer, Pastor
507-451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass:
9:30 a.m.c with Children's Church
Reconciliation:
8:45 a.m. - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.:
Faith Formation for K thru Confirmation
Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-477-2256
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m. &10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration:
8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Friday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation:
3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service
8 a.m. Thursday)
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Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
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CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOASTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksena
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW
Owatonna
Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Doug Jones
507-363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-413-0209
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting:
7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna 507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Kirk Johnston
507-477-2631
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna's oldest church)
123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Cindy
507-451-2803
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd St NE
Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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House on the move

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Oops! Another house got loose and rolled all the way from Hartland to Blooming Prairie last Wednesday, courtesy of Spencer House Movers of Blue Earth. This company represents six generations. Distance of the house move was 30 miles. The house is located on 2nd Street SE and 3rd Avenue SE and is owned by Keith Johnson Construction.

PANTHER of the Week

Steve's SMOKEY ACRES
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Reid Sandry

This week's Panther of the Week is Reid Sandry. Reid is the son of Dave and Sherri Sandry and they reside in Waldorf. He is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class.

Reid is the top of the class in reading and math, yet he never slacks off and he always wants to learn more and be challenged. Reid accepts any challenge presented to him and he is a great peer mentor to his classmates. He is also respectful to adults.

Reid loves anything to do with sports. He loves playing and learning all he can about sports including its players and the history of the sports. Reid's favorite books are the Harry Potter series, his favorite types of movies are comedies, and his favorite food is his dad's bacon carbonara. Keep up the great work Reid!

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

HELP CELEBRATE THE
FOURTH OF JULY
Door-to-door button sales in Blooming Prairie
Wednesday, May 22 5-7 p.m.
Buttons will then be on sale at area BP businesses

$3 per button
Congratulations to this year's design winner Jasper Sayles, a fourth grader at BP!
Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

SALUTE TO AREA SERVICE MEMBERS
★ ARMED FORCES DAY ★

PVT2 ERIKA SMITH
Erika graduated from Byron High School in 2018. She took Army Basic Training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. She completed her AIT in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. After completing Airborne School in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, she was processed into an Airborne unit in Fort Bragg. She is the daughter of Jamie Smith and Emily Logan of Byron and her grandparents are Gary and Carol Smith of Kasson.

PFC ALEC SMITH
Alec graduated from Kasson-Mantorville High School in 2018. He took his Army Basic Training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. His AIT was in Fort Bliss, Texas. On May 28, he will be deployed to Poland. His unit will assist soldiers with patriot missile training. He is the son of Jason and Yvonne Smith of Kasson and his grandparents are Gary and Carol Smith of Kasson.

PFC ALLY KELLEY
Ally graduated from Kasson-Mantorville High School in 2017. She took her Army Reserve Basic Training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Her AIT was in Fort Lee, Virginia. She will graduate as a culinary specialist on May 29 with distinguished honors. Her parents are Shawn and Patti Kelley of Kasson.

Thanks for your service to our country, we're proud of you!

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Historical Society seeks micro funding help

2 new exhibits planned on Legion, rural schools

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"We always welcome new ideas."

John Lundgren
Historical Director

"We can't do it alone," says Daniel Moeckly, archives and technology manager of the Steele County Historical Society.

Moeckly and James Lundgren, executive director of the Historical Society, are embarking on an ambitious goal of raising some funds to make over two exhibits at the Steele County Historical Museum.

Funds will be used to buy supplies for the exhibits and will be directed toward maintenance of the exhibits. "Every penny will be dedication to construction of exhibits or how they are run," said Lundgren.

Moeckly and Lundgren are spearheading a micro funding campaign and are asking for the public to help in supplying artifacts or funds.

To help by donating history items or helping by donating financially, contact the Museum at 507-451-1420, or go to the websiste: steelehistorymuseum.org.

A goal has been set "to redo" the current two exhibits on display at the Steele County Museum.

A makeover of the exhibits is only possible with the public's help, Moeckly and Lundgren emphasize.

The Steele County Historical Society is hoping to increase an awareness of the current exhibits on display and also to reach out to the public for help to create new exhibits in a public gallery display area.

Exhibits currently on display are:

• World War I exhibit entitled "Over Here, Over There, the Great War." This exhibit opened in April of 2017.

• "Toys and Play" spans the period from 1970 to present and traces the changes in technology. This exhibit opened in May of 2018.

The plan is to close down these two exhibits in October of this year and then begin to install two new exhibits. The new exhibits are:

• American Legion in Steele County, 100 years old. Four pillars of American Legion will be built: support of youth, support of veterans, Americanism and national security.

• Rural schools in Steele County, the story is told of how education evolved and what it was like for the students and teachers.

A realistic goal of raising $5,000 for each new exhibit has been set. "We will accept anywhere from $1 to $100," said Moeckly. "We will also accept archive donations," Lundgren added.

Creating an awareness of Steele County history is the main goal, both officials claim. Exhibits are built with research information gleaned from surveys. Surveys are available through the internet or from hard copies.

Grant monies totaling $15,000 have already been expended to write text for the American Legion exhibit. Moeckly has also been leading a small Steele County American Legion group the past two years in an attempt to catalog Steele County Legion history.

"We can't do it alone."

Dan Moeckly
Technology Manager

Moeckly has also been researching how rural schools function. "The one-room school was the heart of

SEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, B2

(STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD)

Dan Moeckly, left, and James Lundgren of the Steele County Historical Society stand in front of one of the current exhibits at the Steele County Historical Museum. This exhibit traces events of World War I. Two new exhibits will begin to take shape in November: American Legions of Steele County and Rural Schools of Steele County.

Esplans named Grand Marshals for Fourth in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's official.

The husband and wife team of Ken and Judy Esplan will be Grand Marshals for the 2019 Fourth of July parade in Blooming Prairie on Thursday, July 4.

Becky Noble, executive director of the BP Area Chamber of Commerce, announced their selection at a regular noon meeting of the Chamber on Wednesday, May 15 held at the BP City Center.

Noble said the Esplans have been very active in supporting the Fourth of July celebration every year. Judy has been treasurer for the event. Ken, a Vietnam veteran, has held the gambling manager position for many years at the BP Servicemen's Club.

The Times in its Fourth of July special section will publish a story on the Esplans. Watch for it.

Sarah Esplan, secretary of the Chamber, urged Chamber members and others to volunteer for Fourth of July activities. She is still looking for volunteers for some events.

Chamber president Dan Peach presided at the Wednesday meeting.

Peach called on gambling chair Amanda Schumacher to report on gambling activities. She said the Chamber planned to donate $7,500 from charitable gambling to the City of Blooming Prairie for the

SEE GRAND MARSHALS, B6

Post Bulletin sold to Fargo media group

After decades of the same ownership, Southern Minnesota's largest daily newspaper will have a new owner next month.

Last week Forum Communications based in Fargo announced it will acquire the Post Bulletin of Rochester beginning June 1. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. The sale does not include the Post Bulletin's downtown office and printing facility.

The Post Bulletin, which serves 60 communities in nine counties, has been owned by the Small Newspaper Group since 1977. President Len R. Small told employees Thursday morning that the new owners were "worthy custodians" of the company.

With the announcement, Forum Communications plans to shut down the printing plant and transfer the printing of the newspaper to its printing facility in Red Wing. Numerous employees in Rochester will be out of a job as a result of the closure.

For the past nine years, the Post Bulletin has printed the Steele County Times. Publisher Rick Bussler said it's unknown at this time where the local newspaper will be printed. "We're looking at various options, including printing at Forum's facility in Red Wing," Bussler said, adding other print facilities are also being

SEE POST BULLETIN, B6

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Images from a special service held at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna to celebrate Trinity Lutheran Church's 100-year anniversary. The service included a luncheon and was held on Sunday, April 28.

A century of worship

Trinity Lutheran Church marks 100-year anniversary

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

For 100 years Steele County residents have flocked to Trinity Lutheran Church to worship and come together.

To celebrate the 100-year anniversary Trinity Lutheran Church held a special service at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna on April 28. More than a thousand people showed up for the service, which featured a choral piece by Greg Scheer and a reunion of former pastors.

"We had really good energy," Trinity Pastor Todd Buegler said. "It was wonderful, and it surpassed our expectations." Buegler explained that there were 1,150 people in the room with another 360 tuning in to the live stream.

Buegler also recounted some of the parish's history. "It's a wonderful history," he said. "It started when a group of women wanted their children to get to worship in English." All of the other churches during this time were doing services in languages such as German, Danish, or Swedish.

The group held a meeting on Feb. 6, 1919, which was attended by 60 people and together they decided to form their own church. "Shortly after they bought an old Universalist church at the corner of Main Street and Elm," Buegler said.

"It's really a unique and forward-looking story," he continued. Buegler explained that all of the women did the initial fundraising for the parish. Since that time, Trinity has become a seminal part of Owatonna, not just for worshipers but for the community by hosting many events.

"When we built our new building six years ago, we really wanted to make it a priority to open up that space for the community," Buegler said. "Churches are not called to be islands onto themselves, they should always look to the community."

Buegler explained that their goals as a church are to give ministry to those who live on the margins, heal people broken by life's circumstance, and continue to grow as a center of worship within the community.

"It has to do with engagement and making people feel connected and that this is their place," Buegler said of Trinity's longstanding tradition within the community. "One hundred years is an important milestone."

In the years since its founding, Trinity has continued to follow these principles. "The goal of a church is to look outside of itself," Buegler added. "If we can do that then the community is served and the church grows."

Buegler first relocated to Trinity five years ago and recalls that he was excited by the opportunity. "Trinity had the reputation of being a good church, an innovative church and had a reputation of reaching out to the community."

To continue to celebrate its anniversary, Trinity will be holding various events throughout the year. "We really try to make this about both looking back and looking forward," Buegler said. "We want to look back and honor our history, and we want to look ahead and dream about our future."

During their anniversary celebration, the church and congregational members did just that as Buegler read a letter he composed to a pastor 100 years from now. "It was about our hopes and dreams," he said.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Images from a special service held at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna to celebrate Trinity Lutheran Church's 100-year anniversary. The service included a luncheon and was held on Sunday, April 28.

Inspect your child car seats

Steele Talkin'
ANDREA MARSHALL

Did you know 75% of all car seats are installed incorrectly? Using a car seat correctly makes a big difference!

Even the right seat for your child's size must be used properly on every single ride to protect your child in a crash. To assist parent's, grandparent's and other caregivers, Steele County Public Health will be hosting a "Car Seat Check-up Event" on May 29, from 5-7 p.m. at the Mayo "Have a Safe Summer Event" held at the Four Seasons Center (located in the Steele County Fairgrounds). Appointments are not required but recommended. If you would like to ensure a specific time for your car seat check, call Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7650. All checks will be completed by Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

Many important questions will be answered during a car seat checkup event including the following...

Does your car have airbags?

Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat of a vehicle that has a front passenger airbag. If the airbag inflates, it will hit the back of the car seat, right where your baby's head rests and could cause serious injury or death.

Is your child facing the right way for weight, height, and age?

All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by for their car seat. When infants outgrow a rear-facing only seat, they should use a rear-facing convertible seat. Children should remain rear-facing for as long as possible. Most seats have limits that allow children to ride rear facing until the age of 2 or more.

Once a child has outgrown the rear-facing seat, a child should use a forward-facing seat with a harness for as long as possible, most seats can accommodate children up to 65 pounds or more.

Is the harness snug?

Harness straps should fit snugly against your child's body. Place the chest clip at armpit level to keep the harness straps secure on the shoulders.

SEE STEELE TALKIN', B2

Public Health receives state breastfeeding-friendly recognition

Steele County Public Health (SCPH) has been named a Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for its contributions to the health of mothers and their babies.

MDH recognizes workplaces and county health departments that have demonstrated their commitment to supporting breastfeeding mothers by creating a workplace lactation support program.

Breastfeeding is a foundational way to ensure that babies receive optimal nutrition during the first formative years of life. Studies show that infants who are breastfed have better health outcomes as they grow. MDH recognized organizations that have taken a leadership role to improve breastfeeding rates and meet Healthy 2020 goals.

The designation acknowledges Steele County's commitment to acting as a model for the community by supporting healthy families and receiving the business benefits of supporting nursing mothers. The designation is achieved by adopting a written policy and educating staff about it; ensuring adequate break time for breastfeeding employees; providing a clean, private place to pump breast milk; and demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting breastfeeding in the workplace.

This is MDH's recognition program, which was created and is supported by the state Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).

In addition to updating the SCPH Breastfeeding Policy, employees will receive educational materials and meet with their direct supervisor to better understand all their legal rights that support employees who breastfeed. SHIP awarded funding to help complete renovations for a Mother's Room and provided Mobile Lactation Kits for traveling employees.

To learn how to apply for recognition, visit health.state.mn.us/breastfeedingfriendly or call Andrea Marshall at Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7661.

Chamber donates $13K to Blooming Prairie

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blooming Prairie City Council accepted a $13,000 donation from the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce during its monthly meeting Monday, May 13.

The donation will be placed in a fund designated for the Betterment and Beatification of Blooming Prairie.

The chamber made the donation as part of its charitable gambling operation and requested that $9,000 of the donation be used for annual Fourth of July Celebration, specifically to purchase fireworks and to host child friendly activities in Central Park.

The remaining donation and future donations will be held by the city, where the chamber can propose ideas and projects that the remaining funding is used for.

The council also approved an update to Arkema's discharge process.

The adjustment will allow Arkema to use an additional tank to store certain compounds while alleviating some of the time constraints in the disposal process that were necessary due to the smaller tanks that were being utilized. City and Arkema officials have held multiple meeting since August of 2018 to discuss adjusting the testing of chromium levels and the process in which Arkema disposes of certain waste.

In March, a final meeting was held to verify the changes being made to their disposal and testing techniques.

Testing will become less frequent, from once a week to once a month, according to City Administrator Andrew Langholz.

Previously, tests were to determine if a particular type of chromium was being discharged.

However, when tested the amounts of that type of chromium were, at worst, one-tenth of the acceptable levels set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

In other news, the council:

• Approved the request from the Blooming Prairie Youth Club for permission to

close 4th Street from 1st Avenue NE to Highway 218 North on Saturday, June 22 to hold the Blooming Prairie Youth Club Rib Fest and kids games.

• Approved the following liquor licenses and fees for the year July 1, 2019

through June 30, 2020:

* On-sale liquor licenses ($2,000 fee) — J and H Liquors, Inc.; Blooming Prairie Cue Company, Inc. and Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

* Off-sale liquor licenses ($100 fee) — J and H Liquor and 218 Off-Sale.

* On-sale wine licenses ($100 fee) — Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club and Blooming Prairie Cue Company, Inc.

* Off-sale malt beverage licenses ($5 fee) — Vandal's Family Market.

* On-sale malt beverage licenses ($50 fee) — Bunkie's Grille and Lanes

• Approved the request from the Chamber related the Fourth of July Celebration that includes allowing beer licenses in the city park on July 3 from 4 to 9 p.m. and July 4 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; provide police coverage as in the past; wash of the pavilions by the July 1; move high school bleacher to the elementary school area for July 3 and 4 activities; have on hand fencing and poles for the beer garden, bean bag tournament and any extra for the car show; fill pits for the bean bag tournament with sand; road barricades from 1st Street (Eat of Central Park) main street downtown and for County Road west of the high school; Mayor Curt Esplan to participate in the parade; city reimbursement fort the portable toilets if possible and make sure all outlets work in Central Park and Victory Field by July 1.

• Approved an application for permit to consume liquor in park as received from

Judy Esplan in the Central Park Pavilion on June 15.

• Approved the application for permit to consume liquor in park for a graduation party at the Victory Field Pavilion on May 18. Langholz gave an update on the 2019 Street Improvement Project. "We have cleared the trees and they are finishing up the [horizontal] boring under the one block where they are replacing the water main," he said. "The rest of the project should be starting Thursday (May 16)."

The price point for the seal coating came back 11% lower than originally anticipated, which means the city was able to add another block to the project. Langholz said the earliest the project would start is June 17.

Langholz informed the council that there is a vacancy on the Planning Commission. He asked the council for their input, but said some viable candidates have already presented themselves.

The Blooming Prairie Ambulance Service will host its open house on May 21 from 4 to 7 p.m.

STEELE TALKIN': *Car Seats* FROM B1

Is the seat belt or LATCH strap in the right place and pulled tight?

Route the seat belt or LATCH strap through the correct path. Convertible seats have different belt paths for when they are used rear-facing or forward-facing.

Pull the belt tight. Apply weight int on the sear with your hand while tightening the seat belt or LATCH strap. This is not as easy as it sounds! When the car seat is installed, be sure it does not move more than an inch side to side or toward the front of the car.

Has your child outgrown the forward-facing car seat?

All children whose weight and height are above the car seat limit should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle seat belt fits correctly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are 8-12 years of age.

Do you know the history of your child's car seat and has it been recalled?

Do not use a used car seat if you do not know the history of the seat. Do not use a car set that has been in a moderate to severe crash, has been recalled or is too old, has any cracks in its frame, or is missing parts.

This is just part of what is covered in a complete car seat check! If this sounds like a lot of information with unfamiliar words, remember to make an appointment and have a Professional Child Passenger Safety Technician help you at our upcoming event. If you are unable to make this event, Steele County Public Health can assist people in checking their car seats, contact them at 507-444-7650 to make an appointment.

Most important is to use a car seat for every trip. Using the right car safety seat lowers the risk of death or serious injury by more than 70%.

Car crashes remain a leading cause of death for children. Over the last 10 years, four children under age 14 died each day! We hope that by helping parents and caregivers use the right seat for each and every ride that we can better protect kids and prevent tragedies.

Andrea Marshall is a health educator with Steele County Public Health in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column that features authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

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Owatonna Kiwanis Club awards annual scholarships

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Caption: This year's scholarship winners are, from left: Kiwanis member Jerry Ganfield, Selena Ong, Ilhan Omar, Emily Keck, Lydia Rieck, Nick Staska, Gabriel Rysavy, Dominick Yerhot, and Kiwanis Member Bob Stark. Winners that could not be in attendance due to other commitments are Ashley Kellar, Zachary Barrett, and McKenna Schroht.

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Ten area students were gifted with scholarships from the Owatonna Kiwanis Club on Thursday, May 16. The scholarships are handed out annually to students who are selected by the school for their academic achievements and their involvement in extracurricular activities and the community.

In 1992, the Owatonna Kiwanis Club presented its first scholarship to an area student, and since then, the club has given over 80 scholarships during its annual event. This year the club was able to give out 10 more. There were five $1,000 scholarships and five $500 scholarships.

After a short reception, Kiwanis members Bob Stark and Jerry Ganfield handed out the scholarships, letting each student share a little about themselves and their future plans.

"It always amazes me how much involvement in the community you do," Stark said of the students. "I kind of wonder when you have time to eat," he quipped.

Stark detailed some of the history of the Kiwanis Club before expressing his pleasure at giving out the scholarships. "I can really say that it makes me feel good, it makes all of us at Kiwanis feel good," he said of donating the scholarships. "I just want to say thanks to all of you," he added.

"We're very honored to give these scholarships to deserving students," Kiwanis secretary Cindy Barta said. Barta explained that the school's guidance counselors choose each student, and they traditionally look for a diverse field of students who will be pursuing different career paths.

Some of the scholarship recipients have been involved in Kiwanis Club at a young age and had received Citizen of the Year awards from the club. Kiwanis member Twylah Ottman said, "There's a very special place in my heart for the citizen of the year award, this year we've given 109 between the different elementary schools."

Ottman had past Citizen of the Year award winners in attendance raise their hands and thanked them for their continued devotion to community work. "We are so glad that you have continued with that set of relationships within the community," she said.

This year's District Scholarship winners were: Zachary Barrett, Emily Keck, Selena Ong, Gabriel Rysavy, and McKenna Schroht. All of the recipients of the District Scholarship will receive $1,000 to help with their college education.

The Club Scholarship winners this year were: Ilhan Omar, Lydia Rieck, Nick Staska, Ashley Kellar, and Dominick Yerhot. The Club Scholarship recipients will receive $500 to help pay for their college education.

"It's an honor to receive the scholarship, and I'm really grateful for the Kiwanis Club of Owatonna," District Scholarship winner Gabriel Rysavy said. Rysavy will be attending St. Mary's University in the fall to study philosophy and Spanish.

His fellow District Scholarship winner Emily Keck was also honored to be named. "I'm very proud to receive this scholarship and it's a big opportunity for me and I'm excited about my future," she said. "I have done many years of community service and it's been a good time and I like serving and helping people and I hope that continues in the future."

Keck will be going to Minnesota State University at Mankato for pre-occupational therapy. All of the scholarship winners have bright futures ahead of them, and with help from the Kiwanis Club of Owatonna they will be able to continue the excellent work that they have done both in the community and in their personal lives.

The Kiwanis Education Foundation was founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan as a business network organization. They would later switch their focus to community service and take up the motto: "molding good kids into exceptional adults." According to Stark there are currently over 600,000 members and 8,000 clubs in 96 countries.

The club owes its name to a native American phrase: "Nunc Kee-wanis," which means, "We trade." Outside of their annual scholarship donations, members are also involved in community service. This includes donating food to local churches, and helping out at places like the Steele County Food Shelf or the Steele County Clothesline.

Staff photo by Chris Baldwin

Caption: This year's scholarship winners are, from left: Kiwanis member Jerry Ganfield, Selena Ong, Ilhan Omar, Emily Keck, Lydia Rieck, Nick Staska, Gabriel Rysavy, Dominick Yerhot, and Kiwanis Member Bob Stark. Winners that could not be in attendance due to other commitments are Ashley Kellar, Zachary Barrett, and McKenna Schroht.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: FROM B1

rural communities," says Moeckly. More than half of the Baby Boomers and the Greatest Generation went to rural schools, says Moeckly.

Moeckly and Lundgren said history concepts are explored for the next 10 years on the short range, medium range and long range."We are actively writing through 2025," says Moeckly.

Other historical topics include: Steele County makes music, history of childhoods and native Steele County. The goal is to define what Steele County is like, Moeckly said.

"It's evolutionary," Lundgren said in further explaining the historical footprint development. "We always welcome new ideas," he said.

The complex process of re-creating history "is not as easy as snapping your fingers," Lundgren remarked.

Much of the current exhibits are interactive and that is the goal when building new exhibits, Moeckly and Lundgren insist.

"If people have items to donate or wish to make a monetary donation, please contact us," invites Lundgren.

"We aim to tell Steele County stories," said Moeckly stated.

Two new exhibits hopefully will be taking shape in November. "We won't do a sub-standard exhibit, so we may adjust the timetable if necessary," said Lundgren.

Lundgren continued, "The SCHS is dedicated to offering high quality exhibits that meet our constituents' interests as indicated through information we collected through surveys. We also hope people will share their passion and interest in history by donating to our cause."

NOTICE
For Sale:
City of Ellendale will be taking sealed bids on a
1949 Ford 8N Tractor (VIN # 8NI663294)
and the following attachments
5' Brush hog, small rack, small plow,
& a rear Hydro Hoe dump bed
until 4:00 pm Thursday, June 6, 2019.

Bids may be dropped off at the city office at 106 6th Ave W. Council reserves the right to reject all bids.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Friesen joins BP Police

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A ninth officer of the Blooming Prairie Police Department has been added.

He is Aaron Friesen, currently a resident of Owatonna.

Friesen was officially installed as a part-time officer of the BP Police Department at the regular monthly meeting of the Blooming Prairie City Council on Monday, May 13.

Police Chief Greg Skillestad introduced Friesen and his family: wife Amber and children Otto, 5; Bianca, 3 and Dorothy, 3 months.

Friesen's badge was pinned on him by wife Amber. Also in attendance at his "swearing-in" were his mother, Lisa Biwer, Owatonna and his father, Douglas Friesen and step mother LauriJaye Friesen.

Friesen spent the last 10 years in the Marine Corps Reserves Military Police.

A graduate of Riverland Community College in Austin, Friesen earned an AS Degree in law enforcement.

Friesen is a 2004 graduate of the Owatonna Christian School.

Friesen said he was excited about his new job and he plans to help people of the community. His other interests include woodworking and enjoying the outdoors.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Aaron Friesen is installed as a new, part-time officer for the Blooming Prairie Police Department. Friesen's wife Amber pins the badge on her husband.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad (white uniform) welcomes Aaron Friesen as the ninth officer of the BP Police Department. He was installed on Monday, May 13 and started work last week. Children looking on as he is sworn in were: Otto, 5; Bianca, 3 and Dorothy, 3 months.

CRIME BRIEF

BURGLARY SUSPECT ARRESTED IN OWATONNA

PATRICK POWELL

Police in Owatonna have arrested a man suspected of burglarizing a downtown business.

On May 13, police investigated a burglary from a business. Employees reported seeing several items moved around on desks or had gone missing over the weekend. Surveillance video captured a suspect walking through a door carrying a large box. Officers recognized the suspect and went to his residence.

Outside the residence, officers spotted a large box with a shipping label addressed to one of the employees of the burglarized business. The box was a shipping box containing items stolen, police said.

A search warrant was drafted for the suspect's residence where other stolen property was recovered.

Patrick Powell, 22, of Owatonna, has been charged with third-degree burglary, which is a felony. In an interview with police, Powell reportedly implicated himself in the burglary.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 6 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Esperanza M. Pena, 22, Minneapolis, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Pena was sentenced to $131, 48 days in county jail, obtain GED, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation.

Billy J. Robinson, 58, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats. Robinson was sentenced to $131, 2 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, mental health evaluation and 4 years of supervised probation.

Jeffry A. Sipes, 58, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI and gross misdemeanor restraining order violation. The defendant was sentenced to $581, 42 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel, obtain permission to leave the state, write letter of apology and 5 years of supervised probation.

Johnny Xiong, 55, Appleton, WI, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of 25 kilos or more of marijuana/tetrahydrocannabinols. He was sentenced to $1,081, 120 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 6 – 12:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Casaundra J. Green, 18, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Nathan J. Ash, 20, Eau Claire, WI, seat belt, $106; Brenda A. Bauer, 30, Waseca, speeding, $141; Christian W. Bursch, 70, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Sierra L. Elam, 19, Minneapolis, speeding, $121; Shaun H. Iwamoto, 40, Las Vegas, NV, speeding, $121; Roger D. Langlie, 70, Ellendale, seat belt, $106; Duvellasha L. Lee Jr., 19, Mankato, speeding, $141; Michael P. Lindberg, 35, Minneapolis, speeding, $281; Zane M. Novotny, 19, New Prague, window tint violation, $131; Shaylma Salinas, 26, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Dylan P. Spencer, 20, Waseca, seat belt, $106; Timothy J. Stevens, 42, North Mankato, texting while driving, $131; Spencer M. Wallin, 24, Wells, window tint violation, $131; Oliver J. Zay, 39, Albert Lea, window tint violation, $131.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mulyun K. Amin, 34, Owatonna, permit violation, $131; Macy J. Barrington, 17, Waseca, failure to stop for traffic control signal, $131; Mariah J. Britten, 27, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Mathieu H. Brundige, 25, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and DWI, stay of adjudication, $456, 30 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, chemical assessment, 216 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Sarah J. Carson, 31, Owatonna, assault, stay of adjudication, 1 year of supervised probation; Charles L. Chambers, 33, Waterloo, IA, speeding and suspended license, $321; Crystal M. Cox, 32, St. Paul, receiving stolen property, $170.99, 33 days in county jail; David J. Erwin, 63, Owatonna, expired tabs, $111; Mason L. Evans, 19, Waterville, domestic abuse, stay of adjudication, $300, 2 days in county jail, obtain permission to leave the state, no contact with victim, 20 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Desirae D. Farr, 35, Ellendale, theft, $181; Timothy J. Finnegan, 17, Medford, failure to yield, $131; Yesenia A. Galvan, 29, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Jacob D. Goerdt, 19, Owatonna, window tint violation and no front plate, $161; John A. Hanson, 54, Twin Lakes, expired registration, $111; Bret N. Liverseed, 29, Morristown, expired license, $181; Anthony M. Rainone, 61, Owatonna, invalid license and no insurance, $381; Jose A. Rosas-Vera, 38, Owatonna, stop sign and suspended license, $331; Laura C. Senst, 31, Chanhassen, speeding, $121; Frank J. Silva, 29, Faribault, invalid license, $181; Jessalyn S. Traulich, 32, Claremont, failure to yield and no insurance, $331; Katinell F. Traynor, 67, Louisiana, MO, seat belt, $106; Marion R. Traynor, 70, Louisiana, MO, seat belt, $106; Israel Urias-Flores, 57, Owatonna, DWI, $406, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cassondra S. Bremer, 18, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Jorge Campos Avila, 24, Medford, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Benjamin R. Drabek, 24, Owatonna, theft of motor fuel from retailer, $191; Jenna L. Fernandez, 34, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Derick R. Hall, 20, Mankato, speeding, $281; Silpa J. Hernandez, 42, invalid license, $181; Timothy J. Loonan, 60, Waseca, speeding, $141; Margarito Maya Rivas, 40, Owatonna, invalid license, $181; Joshua R. Pierick, 25, Kasson, speeding, $121; Thiwat L. Ret, 25, Waseca, DWI, $406, 90 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 3 years of supervised probation; Talon D. Scurlock, 18, St. Paul, invalid license, $181; Darrell A. Stromlund, 66, Strathcona, speeding, $121.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

May 16

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at 2nd St. SE and 3rd Ave. SE at 4:57 p.m.

Owatonna Police

May 10

Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:24 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 11:23 a.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 200 block of E. Main St.

Threats: Officers responded to a subject making threats in the 1100 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 2:15 p.m.

May 11

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Rose St. E. and Cedar Ave. N. at 6:19 a.m.

Burglary: Police responded to a burglary in the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 10:57 a.m.

Mental Health: Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 700 block of Truman Ave. SE at 11:14 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

May 12

Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 10:58 p.m.

Dispute: Police assisted with a neighborhood dispute in the 1700 block of St. Paul Rd. NE at 11:42 a.m.

Trespassing: Officer issued a citation to a subject trespassing in the 500 block of Academy St. E. at 5:36 p.m.

May 13

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 400 block of Hillsdale St. NW at 8:07 a.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Cedar Ave. N. and Pearl St. E. at 9:09 p.m.

Violation: At 9:15 p.m., police arrested a subject for an ordinance violation in the 100 block of Main St. E.

May 14

Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 400 block of North St. W. at 5:51 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Thefts: Police took theft reports in the 1000 block of Butternut Ave. SW at 6:22 a.m., the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 10:09 a.m. and the 100 block of Walnut Ave. N. at 12:01 p.m.

Restraining Order: Officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 1800 block of Rosewood Dr. NW at 10:05 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 10:10 a.m. and the 600 block of 18th St. NE at 2:29 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 12:37 p.m.

May 15

Burglary: Officers began a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:52 a.m.

Truancy: Police received reports of three truancy violations throughout the day.

Theft: At 9:26 a.m., a citizen reported being the victim of identity theft in the 1000 block of Leona Place NE.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 600 block of Rose St. E. at 4:59 p.m.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 300 block of Highland Ave. NW at 7 p.m.

May 16

Warrant: Officers made warrant arrest in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 1:16 a.m. and the 300 block of Lemond Rd. SW at 6:01 p.m.

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Mosher Ave. SW and School St. W. at 4:22 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

May 10

DWI: Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 14000 block of 52nd Ave. SE in Berlin Township at 9:45 p.m.

May 11

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 3000 block of County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 10:28 p.m.

May 12

Medical: Deputies responded to a medical emergency in the 10700 block of 52nd Ave. SW in Lemond Township at 4:37 a.m.

May 13

DWI: Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at County Road 45 N. and 46th St. NW in Clinton Falls Township at 1:59 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 600 block of Lageson Court in Ellendale at 9:29 a.m.

Medical: Deputies responded to a medical emergency in the 13300 block of 67th Ave. SW in Berlin Township at 9:56 a.m.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 4100 block of 50th St. NE in Merton Township at 1:08 p.m.

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 6200 block of Kenyon Road in Merton Township at 8:44 p.m.

May 14

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 200 block of 5th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 10:18 a.m.

May 15

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 3:01 p.m.

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 7600 block of Crane Creek Road in Meriden Township at 10:47 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Michael Edward Payne, 27, arrested at 12:39 p.m. May 14, probation violation, held for court.

Sean Michael Wocelka, 40, arrested at 2:42 p.m. May 14, probation violation, held for court.

Stefanie Samantha Herrera, 33, arrested at 6:52 p.m. May 15, probation violation, held for court.

Jon Long, 39, arrested at 12:07 a.m. May 16, felony drugs, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 5 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Jesse M. Corson, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana and gross misdemeanor burglary. Corson was sentenced to $130, 126 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 5 – 12:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kyle F. Burnes, 37, Stewartville, revoked license, $280; Scott M. Hofius, 49, Blooming Prairie, registration violation, $110; Taylor H. Medes, 18, Rochester, speeding, $130; Nicko Z. Rabe, 27, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32; Lee K. Schmeling, 40, Byron, rear lamps violation, possession of marijuana and open bottle, $270; Jodette R. Siegele, 49, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Nathan R. Stoeckel, 29, Medford, speeding, $120; Jared J. Sultze, 37, Claremont, animal at large, $100; Gregory F. Trost, 71, Mantorville, parking violation, $32; Oluwaseyi A. Valentine, 33, Rochester, revoked license, stay of adjudication, $100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

James D. Aakre, 45, Mantorville, texting while driving, $130; Marco A. Garcia, 42, Kasson, invalid license, $180; Jaeden H. Johnson, 17, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32; Abhinesh Kumar, 29, Monticello, texting while driving, $130; Trent K. Lueth, 28, Kasson, texting while driving, $130; David M. Parker, 37, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Devon F. Sackett, 41, Kasson, revoked license and registration violation, $310.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Ross A. Bauer, 32, Kasson, speeding, $120; Michael R. Gauthier, 32, Big Lake, speeding, $140; Timothy A. Moenning, 19, Dodge Center, speeding, $380; Lino B. Salgado, 49, Chaska, speeding, $130; Jeffrey D. Wiebold, 18, Pine Island, seat belt, $105.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kristin M. Diderrich, 36, West Concord, parking violation, $32; Beatriz I. Granado, 40, West Concord, parking violation, $32; Cynthia R. Sveen, 58, Woodbury, parking violation, $32; Mikayla K. Wahl, 22, Owatonna, parking violation, $32.

OWATONNA FIRE

May 11

Medical: Fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 900 block of Liebe Ave. NE at 10:51 p.m.

May 12

Hazardous: Fire personnel assisted with a hazardous condition in the 7500 block of Crane Creek Road at 10:16 p.m.

May 14

Gas Leak: At 11:25 p.m., a natural gas leak occurred in the 2800 block of Northridge Lane NE.

May 16

Crash: Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at School St. W. and Mosher Ave. at 4:27 p.m.

WARRANTS: The following individuals have active warrants in Steele County. The Sheriff provides this information as a public service

1. Mariia Arredondo – theft - $1,000 bail
2. Marcus Aye – soliciting without permit - $500 bail
3. Jose Ayon – DWI – no bail
4. Thomas Baker – theft - $10,000 bail
5. Lionel Baldwin – weapons - $3,000 bail
6. Jesus Barrera – controlled substance crime - $100,000 bail
7. Kristopher Barta – false name - $500 bail
8. Cody Batroff – DWI – no bail
9. Claudia Bautista – theft - $10,000 bail
10. Richard Bazan – DWI - $1,000 bail
11. Gary Bechtel – DWI - $12,000 bail
12. Jeremy Becker – theft, shoplifting - $500 bail
13. Diane Bedney – dishonored check - $1,000 bail
14. Judith Beneke – DWI - $1,400 bail
15. Joshua Benson – false name, no insurance - $500 bail
16. Marcello Bermea III – contempt of court - $1,000 bail
17. Jose Bernal – domestic assault - $700 bail
18. Kathleen Bernichon – theft by check - $2,500 bail
19. Jose Blancaste – DWI - $1,000 bail
20. Jose Blanco-Delgado – burglary, assault - $35,000 bail

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification and apprehension of wanted individuals

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Healthcare competition

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Within any industry a little competition is always a good thing. Compcare, which opened its doors in Owatonna this past January, hopes to bring residents an alternative to traditional clinic services.

"We're about one-half occupation medicine and one-half urgent care," CEO Cooper Rendon explained. "I would say that half of our business comes from employers and the other half is traditional urgent care."

Those ages 2 and up are able to be seen at the clinic which offers an on-site pharmacy and online scheduling. "We're trying to be a one-stop solution to healthcare," Rendon said. "They can get what they need here in the office and walk out the door at the same time."

"We have about a 25-minute total visit time on average, which is great!" he said. "I think the best urgent care nationwide averages around an hour or so."

Employer services include: workers' compensation injury management, drug and alcohol testing, physical exams, DOT services, military services, audiometric testing, pulmonary function testing, x-ray, mask fit testing, vaccinations, lift testing, military contracting, mobile onsite services and more.

Individual services include: testing for strep throat, influenza, pink eye and mononucleosis performed in the office laboratory along with other common lab work. X-rays are available in the radiology suite. Common vaccinations and orthopedic braces are also available. For those with concerns for sleep apnea, a comfortable home testing solution is available. Telemedicine, or phone and tablet-based visits, is also on the horizon.

> **"The goal is efficiency.** It's 2019 and we need to get in and out of things quickly."
>
> **Cooper Rendon**
> Compcare CEO

"That's another up and coming thing for the general public," Rendon explained of telemedicine. "We're going to be opening that later this year so you're able to get on and be seen for more minor issues. It's pretty extensive these days."

The need for better efficiency in the healthcare world is another reason Compcare stands out from its competitors. "Instead of a request, which is a process, employers can schedule on an actual schedule, and it doesn't change," Rendon said. "It makes things very easy."

"The goal is efficiency, it's 2019 and we need to get in and out of things quickly," he said. "Traditional clinics are starting to change to this model, but we figure that instead of going backwards and try to fix things, we would be able to start at the beginning and do things right."

Having a more streamlined approach to scheduling and visits means that the patients are able to benefit as well. "Because of this we are able to spend more time with the patients," Rendon said. "People really enjoy coming in here."

Rendon also mentioned that there is a lot of good, transparent information on their Facebook page and website. "Our website has a lot of content for people, and we have pretty affordable self-pay rates there."

For those who have a high deductible or no insurance, a self-pay option provides transparent affordable pricing with the average visit costing less than $200. Compcare is in-network with many insurance companies including blue cross and health partners. FSA/HSA cards are accepted.

Compcare is located at 1232 S Oak Ave. SE #130, in Owatonna. Patients can dchedule online at www.compcareclinics.com.

Dreams come true for new salon owners

BY ALEX MALM
STAFF WRITER

For many years, Mantorville residents Stacy Deno and Rachel Peterson have managed salons.

On May 13, they took the next step in their careers as their new salon, Headquarters at 303 in Kasson, had its soft opening.

For a while, both Deno and Peterson knew they wanted a change and wanted to advance their careers.

Knowing each other from working together previously and knowing that they had the same drive and work ethic, they knew that they wanted to go into their business venture together.

That prompted them to find the right opportunity and as luck would have it, they were able to buy the business, from Debra Ball, who will be continuing to work as a hairstylist.

Since buying the business, they hit the ground running, working on remodeling the salon and coming up with a modern day design for the business.

Some of the features in the salon include four hair stylists, with a combined 60 years of experience, along with two massage therapists.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX MALM

Stacy Deno and Rachel Peterson opened their new Main Street salon in Kasson on May 13. The salon, Headquarters at 303, is located at 303 W. Main St. in downtown Kasson.

Another thing that they offer is Aveda products, something that isn't currently offered in Kasson.

Although it's been a lot of work going into redesigning the salon, they both agree that it's a dream come true for them.

"It's been an adventure," Peterson said. "It's a dream come true," she added.

Deno explained that they are both working moms and are looking forward to owning a business for the first time.

"We're working moms that want to better our families and selves," Deno said.

They also explained that they are pleased to be able to offer something new and exciting to Kasson, through the Aveda products and are also looking forward to continuing to be apart of the community, one part of their jobs that they certainly enjoy.

"My favorite part is being able to be apart of the community," Deno said. "It's also exciting to be able to make people feel good about themselves," she added.

Although their soft opening took place this week, they plan on having a grand opening sometime in June.

The salon is located at 303 W. Main St. in Kasson. To make an appointment call 507-634-4000.

STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

FIRE UP THE GRILLS

Wood-fired pizza Wednesdays are back at Berne for 8th season

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza is back and ready for another successful summer.

Operating from 5-8 p.m. every Wednesday in June, July, and August on the grounds of the Zwingli United Church of Christ, Berne Pizza has become renown not only for its wood-fired pizza and free outdoor concerts, but also for the charitable giving. Run completely by over 400 volunteers, proceeds have benefited nearly 60 non-profit organizations across southern Minnesota and beyond since its inception in 2012.

Berne is excited to announce several special events that are sure to draw a crowd this summer. The first of the season is the Artisan Market Night on June 12. "In its third year, Berne's Artisan Market nights continue to grow in popularity. The diverse array of talented artists in attendance makes for a really enjoyable evening and shopping experience for guests," stated Angela Organ, event coordinator.

June 19 will be Classic Car & Bike Cruise-In night. The vehicle chosen as fan favorite by guests will be awarded a free pizza, and vehicles will get prime parking on the grounds. New this year is Celebrate America Night – A Salute to Veterans and Active Duty Soldiers. Military personnel will be honored for their service and given free ice cream treats. There will also be a rock climbing wall provided by the MN Army National Guard free for those ages 7+ to experience.

The highlight of the summer is Berne's Summer Concert line up, comprised of 26 local bands from across Minnesota, all of whom volunteer their time and talent. Two bands play nightly at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Fan favorites are returning including Nite Shift, Old Country Boys, JT & the Gunslingers, Incognito, & FABBAulous. Six Mile Grove, who recently released its newest album, will kick off-season eight on Wednesday, June 5. In addition to returning favorites, several new bands will grace Berne's stage for the first time including The Ripdoozers, Street Talk and The Local Hooligans, three popular cover music bands.

Berne Pizza began in 2012 by replacing the once-popular Swissfest, which drew thousands of guests annually before it declined in later years.

"The church was inspired to host wood-fired pizza events hoping to provide a great outdoor venue for people of all ages to gather and enjoy Minnesota summer nights," Organ said. "The success of the pizza events has enabled the church to be able to provide grant funding for many non-profit organizations in the region," she added.

2019 BERNE PIZZA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES LINEUP

June 5	Les Fields & the Turkey River All-Stars, Six Mile Grove
June 12	Sam Ryden & the Eastside Collective, County Line Drive
June 19	The Ripdoozers, Street Talk
June 26	Vintage Tones, Lost Faculties
July 3	Hair of the Dog, Nite Shift
July 10	After School Special, Hair Metal Radio
July 17	Luke Hendrickson, Old Country Boys
July 24	Colt 45, JT & the Gunslingers
July 31	The Gopher Tones, Incognito
Aug. 7	Berne Alphorn Quintet, Bavarian Musikmeisters
Aug. 14	Parks & Kleist, FABBAulous
Aug. 21	The Reunion Band , The Local Hooligans
Aug. 28	Ventura Highway, Branded: Hot Country

Freerksens named top citizens in Dodge Center

A local businessman has been named to a high honor in Dodge Center.

Roger and Sheila Freerksen are being honored as the Citizens of the Year for the community. They own Freerksen Trucking.

The Freerksens began their business in 1987 at their home in rural Dodge Center. As the business grew, they purchased the building property across from the Hardware Hank in Dodge Center from Don and Gin Kuske in 1994. When they moved the business into town, they hired office workers and diesel mechanics.

As the business continued to grow, the Freerksens purchased more property from Leonard Marquardt and built the truck repair shop and truck wash building behind the office.

In 2007, they purchased more land west of the business from Leonard M. and built the new Freerksen Trucking and Enterprise building. The Freerksens converted the former office building into a two hand bay car wash stalls and two automatic car wash stalls.

Their son, Mark,went to college for business management. He is now manager of the trucking business. The couple's daughter, Lisa, went to college for teaching and worked in the office during the summer time. She is now a teacher at George Gibbs School in Rochester. Another son, Brent, went to school for diesel mechanic. He is now manager of Enterprise for truck repairs.

"Thank you to our employees who helped us grow our business through the years," said Roger Freerksen.

People's Energy grants help local groups

Several area organizations are benefiting from grants through People's Energy Cooperative.

People's Operation Round Up Trust Board has provided $5,388.60 in grants this quarter to the following area organizations:

- $2,738.60 – Southeast MN Back Country Horsemen for the construction of benches and hitching rails at Forestville State Park (Hayfield)
- $1,950 – American Cancer Society to support the Relay for Life of Olmsted County (Rochester)
- $300 – Byron Community Education ECFE to support the Little Cubs Library Class
- $500 – Kasson-Mantorville School Readiness PreK/S.M.A.R.T. to assist the purchase of playground equipment
- The People's Energy Cooperative Trust - Operation Round Up fund started in 2002 and grants funds to a variety of charitable, educational, community and youth-related programs and events.

The program is funded by donations made by members of People's Energy Cooperative who voluntarily have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. Approximately 17,000 members currently participate with the average donation of $6 a year per member, demonstrating that small change can make a big difference.

Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. The funds are held separately from the People's Energy Cooperative operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven People's Energy Cooperative member volunteers.

To be considered for third quarter grants in 2019, applications must be submitted no later than June 20. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up donations are available at www.peoplesenergy.coop or by calling the Cooperative at 507-367-7015 or 800-214-2694.

A lot of hands to help the needy

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's very rewarding to work with local church communities in feeding starving children around the world, says Monica Anderson of the St. Columbanus Catholic Church of Blooming Prairie.

Anderson, Faith Formation director at Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Litomysl, is very familiar with the nationwide Feed My Starving Children project. She expressed pleasure with the recent FMSC project that took place earlier this month in Blooming Prairie.

Amber Konz is Faith Formation director at St. Columbanus Catholic Church of the Blooming Prairie and coordinated activities for this church with the First Lutheran site.

"A lot of hands are needed to help this organization pack food items that will be directed to needy countries around the world," Konz said.

The FMSC Mobile Pack involved the faith communities of First Lutheran, St. Columbanus Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Litomysl and Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church of rural Austin.

The Geneva Meats food truck was at St. Columbanus recently and these funds were directed to the mobile pack at First Lutheran. Youths also raised money by selling Tootsie Roll banks.

Monica, her husband Troy and their four children have volunteered to help with FMSC seven to eight times. Family members include Olivia, 14; Tyler, 11; Gracelyn, 9 and Nora, 6.

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Kids and adults alike participated recently in an Owatonna Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack activity. A community mobile pack took place at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie earlier this month.

Talking about the meal packing experience, Anderson said "nobody is left standing around and everyone has a purpose when the meals are packed."

Anderson said it is "more personal" when the project comes to one's own community. "It's a very rewarding experience where we don't have to travel across the world to help; we can help in our own communities,"

The Anderson family has packed food at the FMSC warehouse site in Eagan and at a mobile site at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. "We tell people about this program and get more people to volunteer and help out," said Anderson.

The Andersons have been on a number of mission trips and are very passionate about helping others of different cultures and different religions, Anderson explained.

Much of this food goes to Haiti, the Philippines, and recently to Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe where cyclones ravaged the area.

After the food is packed, volunteers pray over the meals, asking for safe travel for the food going to all parts of the world. Volunteers also pray for those who are receiving the food.

Concertina Hall of Famer

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Luverne Wanous of Owatonna, middle in top photo and right on bottom photo, accepts his induction into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame Tuesday, May 14 at the Park Ballroom in New Prague. Wanous, 83, has been playing concertina for 75 years around southern Minnesota and elsewhere. He joins the company of 264 other legend concertina musicians that have been inducted since 1976. He is the first inductee from Steele County. "This is unreal, unexpected and I'm honored to be in a class of musicians like that," Wanous said.

'Yes, it will be so'

Special worship held at closed Dodge County church

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

This being the planting season, divine intervention is often asked.

The Rev. Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie provided a special blessing of the fields and farmers at a Westfield Church Spring Worship Service on Sunday, May 19.

She performed the blessing, emphasizing three categories and asked the church visitors to respond with "Amen" which means "Yes, it will be so."

Westfield Lutheran Church closed in the early 1950s and has been the location of three seasonal services during the year, spring, fall and Christmas. The church is located seven miles northeast of Blooming Prairie in Dodge County.

The service started with ringing of the church bell by Brad Pfeifer of Byron and daughter Ava and Casper Aldrich.

After following a typical church service, Pastor Heimgartner led a blessing of the fields and farmers. She solicited help from the 40 in attendance by asking visitors to proclaim "Amen" after each phrase of blessing.

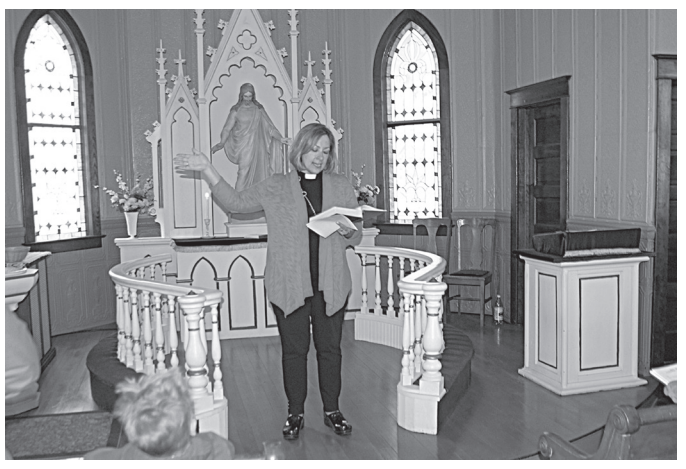
Heimgartner asked:

• For favorable weather, temperate rains and fruitful seasons, and that there may be food and drink for all your creatures, we pray to you, O Lord, AMEN!

• For your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things needed for your people, we pray to you O Lord. AMEN!

• For all who care for the earth, the water and the air, that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age, we pray to you, O Lord. AMEN!

The pastor concluded her prayer of blessing, saying: "Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon our seed, livestock, plow, forest, orchard, field, garden and especially on the workers that together we work to your glory and to the welfare of your people, through Jesus Christ Our Lord."



(STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD)

Pastor Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie, blessed farmers and their fields during a special Westfield Church service on Sunday, May 19.

Heimgartner also asked for a Moment of Silent Remembrance near the end of the church service.

She asked for silent remembrance "for fallen soldiers, and the sacrifice they made for the sake of others." She also asked for a silent moment of thanksgiving in gratitude to god for the brave ones who have answered the call to serve their country."

"Let us keep a silent moment of worship, as we remember, give thanks and honor the lives of all who have gone before us, entrusting them once more to your gracious kingdom."

In her sermon, Heimgartner spoke about Heaven. "Heaven is a mystery of God dwelling in all of us," she said.

The Energy of God provides love within us and we, within it, said Heimgartner.

She challenged: "Rediscover heavily moments in this world impacted by God's presence."

Linda Schmidt provided music for the church service. Four hymns were chosen for the service.

Dale Underwood is organizer of these Westfield services. He showed a piece of tablet paper that contains about 80 names of persons he telephones to invite to the Westfield services.

Underwood paid tribute to three individuals who recently passed away: Bev Willert, Dick Smith and Dale Garness.

Underwood said the church offering for May 19 will help pay for heating, electrical and insurance bills.

"Invite a friend and join us next time," Underwood said.

POST BULLETIN : *Sold* FROM B1

considered.

In addition to printing, the Post Bulletin has handled much of the production of the Times newspaper and ad creation for the past year. "It's unsettling to disrupt the process that has worked well for us, but we will make every effort to ensure things go smoothly so our readers get their newspaper every week," Bussler said.

Forum Communications owns 36 newspapers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin, including the Forum of Fargo-Moorhead. The family-owned company also has television and radio holdings, a commercial printing division, internet businesses and websites at each of its operations.

Bill Marcil, Jr., president of Forum, said, "Forum Communications has been in the business of producing quality journalism for over 100 years. We look forward to building on the legacy of a similar family-owned news operation, working alongside the award-winning Post Bulletin staff to expand the footprint of our quality local news content."

The Post Bulletin has earned Minnesota's top newspaper award for daily newspapers for the past two years. The Rochester newspaper is published Monday through Thursday and the weekend edition on Saturday.

GRAND MARSHALS : *Esplans* FROM B1

community fireworks celebration on July 4.

Gambling funds will also be dedicated to the downtown flower pot project, Schumacher said. Gambling locations include Bunkie's, Cue Company and the BP Country Club.

The Chamber's Junior Entrepreneurs recently toured Sportstitch, reported Linda Klemmensen, chair of the Junior Entrepreneur program.

Peach urged Chamber members to mark July 17 on the calendar. That is the date of the 25th annual Chamber Golf Fun Day at the BP Country Club.

Joe Mason, administrator of the Prairie Manor Care Center, informed Chamber members of an upcoming Prairie Manor fundraiser planned from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, June 14.

Mason said lots of activities are planned, including a silent auction, Bingo, spaghetti dinner and open bar. Proceeds will be directed to a hydrotherapy tub, Mason said.

Peach announced the next meeting to be Wednesday, June 19, a picnic at the Brookside Campgrounds.

Chamber associate member Roger Sorenson won the Chamber Bucks giveaway.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

MAY 29
7 p.m. – BPHS Baccalaureate, St. Columbanus Church

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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

MAY 23
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

MAY 24
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

MAY 28
6:15 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Gym North

MAY 29
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

MAY 23
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
6 p.m. – Building a Community of Dignity, History Center

MAY 24
7 p.m. – Medford Graduation, MHS Gym

MAY 25
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park
Noon – Kid Weekend, Cabela's

MAY 26
Noon – Kid Weekend, Cabela's

MAY 27
Memorial Day Service, Four Seasons Centre

MAY 28
Youth Baseball Kickoff Event, Four Seasons Centre
4 p.m. – Owatonna Public Utilities Meeting, OPU
5 p.m. – Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building

MAY 29
3 p.m. – County Board Work Session, County Admin Building
5 p.m. – Safe Summer Expo, Four Seasons Centre

Autism workshop coming to Austin

The Autism Friendly Austin project is partnering with the Autism Society of Minnesota to offer an upcoming workshop on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Transitioning to Adulthood.

It will take place Thursday, June 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hormel Historic Home in Austin.

Topics featured: Understanding Autism and Positive Behavioral Support; Executive Function, Emotional Regulation and De-Escalation Strategies; and ASD and Employment. (Q&A panel of young adults with autism during lunch.)

Suggested audience: parents/caregivers, educators, support professionals, individuals with autism.

Autism Society of MN Book Store and Resource booths will be on site.

Registration is $30 and $15 for a person with autism. A light breakfast and lunch will be included.

Register online at www.ausm.org (detailed schedule for day available) or

For more information email autism@hormelhistorichome.org or call 507-433-4243.

Memorial Day services set for Ellendale area

American Legion Post #296 and Veterans of Foreign War Post #8941 will provide Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 27 at the following times and locations, weather permitting:

8:15 a.m.	**Holy Trinity Cemetery, Litomysol**
9:15 a.m.	**St. Aiden's Cemetery, Bath**
10:15 a.m.	**Geneva Community Cemetery, Geneva**
11:15 a.m.	**First Lutheran Church Cemetery, rural Ellendale**

The American Legion and VFW Posts will provide an honor guard and firing squad at all locations. A commemorative message will be delivered at the Geneva and rural Ellendale locations. Larry Otto, 1st District American Legion Chaplain, will deliver the Invocation and Benediction.

"Please set aside time to attend one of these featured events in honor of those who have given their lives for our country while serving in the armed forces," said Otto. "As citizens of this great nation, let us take seriously the invitation of Memorial Day to pause and consider those who sacrificed their life so we may enjoy ours today," he added.

All area service men and women, both veterans and active duty personnel alike, are asked to join the ranks, whether you have participated in the past or not. Meet at the Ellendale Community Building at 7:30 a.m. We will travel to each site together. If you have any questions, please contact Roger Shaunce at 507-383-3750 or Larry Otto at 507-475-1023.

The annual Memorial Day Potluck will take place at the Ellendale Community Building following the 11:15 service. Everyone is invited. Please bring a dish to pass, as well as, your own plate and silverware. Beverage will be provided.

Pastor Heimgartner will give Memorial Day message

FILE PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Veterans of Blooming Prairie American Legion Post 52 and VFW Post 878 march in a Memorial Day Parade in Blooming Prairie. The parade starts at 10:45 a.m. with the destination being the Blooming Prairie City Cemetery

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Pastor Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie will be the main speaker during Memorial Day ceremonies in Blooming Prairie on Monday, May 27.

She will speak at 11 a.m. at the Blooming Prairie City Cemetery, following a parade, which begins at the Prairie Plumbing and Heating parking lot and proceeds to the city cemetery.

The parade will feature representatives from American Legion Post 52, Legion Auxiliary, VFW Post 878, VFW Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. The Blooming Prairie High School band will also perform.

Master of Ceremonies for the ceremony will be Commander VFW Post 878, Joe Wacek.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served at the BP Servicemen's Club beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Memorial Day for parade participants who will then gather at Prairie Plumbing.

Following the Memorial Day ceremonies at the BP City Cemetery, everyone is invited to a lunch at the BP Servicemen's Club.

A Picnic Plate lunch of pulled pork sandwich, potato salad, pickles and brownies will be offered at $5 for everyone except veterans who will eat free.

After lunch, Carol Holman, Auxiliary Voice of Democracy and Patriotic Art chairwoman, will present and recognize the 2018-19 Voice of Democracy and Patriotic Art winners.

Patriotic Music will be offered by the group, "Four Plus One" and the Quilts of Valor will be presented to veterans during special ceremonies. Joyce Johns, VFW Auxiliary president will preside.

The day's ceremonies will end with a drawing for a Veterans Memorial Quilt and cash raffle presented by Marilyn Meshke.

If it rains on Memorial Day, the day's events will be held indoors at the Servicemen's Club.

The public is invited to attend the 2019 Memorial Day events.

Safe fair coming to Owatonna just in time for summer

A combination of education, fun and emergency response vehicles will take center stage for Have a Healthy and Safe Summer Fair on Wednesday, May 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Steele County Fairgrounds – Four Seasons Building, 1525 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna.

This free event offers time for families and children ages 3-12 to become aware of crucial safety topics. Educational activities will include car seat checks, water safety, identification cards, teddy bear check-up, fire safety, bicycle rodeo, K-9 Unit demonstration, State Patrol helicopter landing and more.

"Summer is the season for all of us to get outside and be active," says Ann Sneiders, M.D., pediatric provider at Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna.

"Have a Healthy and Safe Summer Fair is not only a way to educate our children, but also a way to connect parents to the resources and summer activities in our community."

This program is a community effort brought to you by Big Brothers Big Sisters, Community Education, Exchange Club, Hy-Vee, Mayo Clinic Ambulance, Mayo Clinic Health System, Owatonna Hospital, part of Allina Health, Owatonna Parks and Recreation, Owatonna Police and Fire Department, Owatonna Public Utilities, Steele County Free Fair, Steele County Public Health, Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition, and the Steele County Sheriff's Office.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 507-444-5007.

It's time again for veteran's outreach

Steele County will be providing outreach for area veterans once again on Thursday, May 30.

Veterans service officer Rene Gilormini will be at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on May 30. He will then travel to Ellendale where he will be available at the Community Building from 11-11:30 a.m.

The county provides outreach for veterans each month.

Red Cross: Critical type O blood shortage; donors needed now

The American Red Cross has a critical shortage of type O blood and urges eligible donors to give now to help patients facing trauma and other life-threatening situations. As a thank-you for helping replenish the blood supply, all donors who come to give blood now through June 10 will receive a $5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.

Right now, the Red Cross has less than a two-day supply of type O blood available for emergency rooms, where it can be most critical. That means just six units of type O blood are available for every 100,000 people, but at least 14 are needed every day. While just 7% of the U.S. population has type O negative blood, it can be transfused to patients with any blood type and is what hospital staff reach for during emergencies when there isn't time to determine a patient's blood type. Type O positive blood is the most transfused blood type and is also critical in trauma situations.

"All blood types are urgently needed, but we're facing a critical shortage of type O blood – the blood group most needed by hospitals," said Cliff Numark, senior vice president, Red Cross Blood Services. "Because it's vitally important for hospitals to have type O blood available when every second counts, type O donors are urged to donate now and make a point to donate often."

The Red Cross collected approximately 11,500 fewer type O blood donations than needed to sustain a sufficient blood supply. Spring break schedules are known to decrease blood donations, and schools, including high schools and colleges, begin to host fewer blood drives in late spring as school years end. Because these drives account for about 20% of blood donations during the school year, less drives can also greatly affect the blood supply.

Donations needed now

Donors of all blood types, especially type O, are urged to urged to make an appointment to donate using the Blood Donor App, at RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Eligible donors with type O blood are encouraged to make a whole blood or Power Red donation, where available. During a Power Red donation, donors give a concentrated dose of red blood cells during a single donation, allowing them to maximize their impact.

In thanks, all those who come to donate blood with the Red Cross May 1 through June 10, will receive a $5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email. (Restrictions apply; see amazon.com/gc-legal. More information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Together.) Additionally, those who come to give May 24-28 will receive an exclusive Red Cross-branded T-shirt, while supplies last.

How blood shortages affect hospitals

Blood shortages are not uncommon and can have a direct impact on patient care. Dr. Atif Shafqat, an oncologist and hematologist at Missouri Baptist Medical Center in St. Louis, says that hospitals face consistent shortages of blood products year-round, even causing some surgeons to delay elective procedures because of individual shortages. "When I ask our blood bank director the toughest part of her job, she always tells me it is these shortages and how to deal with them," he said.

Despite these challenges, hospitals and the Red Cross work to ensure patients have the blood products they need, but that can only happen when a volunteer donor rolls up a sleeve to give. "This is all possible thanks to the volunteers and the blood donors who are giving this generous gift," said Shafqat.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities **May 14-June 8**:

Dodge County
West Concord
May 22: 1-7 p.m., American Legion Post 295, 133 E. Main St.

Freeborn County
Albert Lea
May 22: 1-7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 702 Highway 69 S.
June 4: 12-5 p.m., BeMobile, 2718 Bridge Ave

Mower County
Austin
May 22: 12-6 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 2001 6th Ave. SE
May 23: 12-6 p.m., St. John's Lutheran, 1200 NW 13th Ave.
May 24: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mayo Clinic Health System, 1000 First Drive NW
May 24: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., YMCA, 704 1st Drive NW
May 28: 12-5 p.m., St. Augstine Catholic Church, 405 4th St. NW
May 28: 12-6 p.m., Holiday Inn, 1701 4th St. NW
May 29: 12-6 p.m., Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1600 W. Oakland Ave.
May 30: 12-6 p.m., St. Olaf.s Lutheran Church, 306 2nd St. NW
June 7: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mower County Employees, 201 1st St.NE

Steele County
Owatonna
June 3: 1-6 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 609 S. Lincoln Ave.
June 7: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Owatonna Hospital, 2250 26th St. NW

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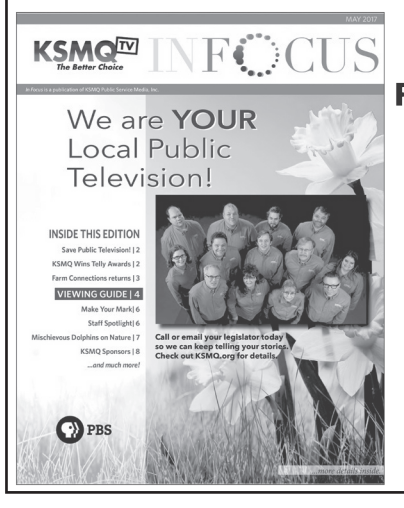
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Memorial Day

Honoring fallen veterans of The Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club provided this list of these deceased veterans.

Neil Zwiener, Donald Peterson, Denis Sime, Otto T. Lund, M. John Christensen, Terry Wold, Rayfield Phillips, Harold Hanson, Manley Westing, Marlyn Dodge, Clair Johnson, Gordon Trom, Marvin Pfeiffer, Frank Betlach,

Franklin Burke, Robert Oswald, Robert Rasmussen, Howard Lysne, Richard Trom, Lowell Ingvalson, Ronald Underwood, John Smith, Carl Fiebiger, Allen Peterson, Edgar Bock, Harold Miller, Orville Williamson, Darrell Rasmussen, Richard Peterson, Jerry Peterson, Howard Butler,

John Cashman, Mark Coughlin, Kenneth Lysne, Nathan Christenson, Francis Marchwicki, Robert Dandelet, Gordon "Spencer" Lindquist, Ralph Trom, Ralph Berg, John Haubenschild, Lynwood Ditlevson, Ray Bass, Everett Carlsen,

Harrison Oswald Jr., Merlin Madsen, Helmer Peterson, Raynold Knudtson, Robert Hunter, Edward Habberstad, Arnold Hanson, Vyrle Krejci, Helen Lee (Gold Star Mother), Hubert Swenson, Kenneth Lea, Joseph Wacek Sr., Rev. Ernest Johnson, Donald Nordine, Ronald Anderson, Warren Iversen, Victor Jirele, Harvey Ille, Edward Possin, Donald Kaplan, Lyle Hanson, Roger "Nip" Peterson, Edward Walsh, Lloyd Schoer, Leslie Hoffman, Duane LaMaack, Gale Leek, Harris Peterson, Keith Colee, Ralph Stoen, Donald "Red" Trom, George Tonolli, Arden Wold, James Thorn, Al Jorde, Milton Kaplan, Dale Njos, Dean Johnson, Lyle Jensen, Rickard Ilk, Robert LeBeau, Raymond Wencl, Lawrence Lysne, Obert Christiansen, Harlan Kittelson, George Davis, Arthur Helleck, Benjamin Bishop, Col. Roger Ingvalson, James Maxfield Jr., Burton Ingvalson, John M. Christenson, Donald "Gus" Nordine, Ronald Anderson, Darrell "Pickle" Johnson, Henry Halstenson, Ronald Reese, Joanne VanWyck, John Ulland, Donald Brown, Maurice Basness, Charlie Ressler, Roger Braaten, Sr., John Ryan, Daniel Emanuel, Robert Grooters, James Pechacek, John Cashman, Francis Jeno, David Sponheim, Allen Michaelson, Leo Coughlin, Hubert Pelinka, Darrel Trom, Robert Becker, Floyd Sorenson, Robert Lenort, William Walsh,

Milo Hoel, Roger P. Johnson, Derwin Hillson, Raymond Seaton, Willis (Bud) Miller, Gerth (Bud) Anderson,

Ronald Malecha, Jerome, Severtson, Edward Lindquist, Loren Rasmussen, Vince Thoreson, Marvin Jensen, Vernon Paulson, Kenneth Baumann, Frank Thissen, Roland Dahl, Howard D. Underwood, Paul J. Ingvaldson, William "Bill" Bailey, Bernard Coufal

Marvin Bennett, John Dwain Todalen, Samuel Dandelet, George O. Jacobson, Gordon H. Diesch, Stanley Gronseth, George Clunis, Edmund Wurst, Joseph Wurst, Dale A. Hanson, Maylon Heinz, Holger Robertson, Lloyd Wobbrock, Herman Grunklee, Eugene Kaplan, and James W. Johns.

Donald Anderson, William Angell, Donald Bakke, Ray Delgado, Lee Folkens, George Ressler, Willie Underwood, Chip Decker

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 C1

TRACK AND FIELD

Panthers run, sprint, jump and throw way to Gopher Conference title

NRHEG boys race to title behind Agrimson's big day

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva won its second consecutive Gopher Conference Boys Track and Field Championship, convincingly, on Tuesday, May 13 at Blooming Prairie High School.

The Panthers won the meet with 181 total points after winning seven events and finished far ahead of the rest of the competition. Medford placed second with 102, followed by Waterville-Eylsian-Morristown with 94.5, Blooming Prairie with 91, Maple River with 90, United South Central with 58, Hayfield with 52.5 and Faribault Bethlehem Academy with 29.

"These guys came out and performed tonight," NRHEG track coach Duey Ferber said. "I am extremely proud to be their coach."

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

The NRHEG boys tack and field team poses for a picture after winning the 2019 Gopher Conference Meet at BPHS on Tuesday, May 14.

The Panthers' Brady Agrimson was the top performers of the meet. He was the only individual, boy or girl, to win three events, not including relays.

Agrimson cruised to wins in the 110-meter hurdles and 300 hurdles with times of 15.25 seconds and 41.24, which were more than one second faster than the second-place finishers in each race. He also won the high jump with a leap of 6 feet, finished third in the 100 dash with a time of 11.78 and scored 36 of the Panthers' total team points.

However, Agrimson was not the only NRHEG standout. Daniel Nydegger won the 800 and 1,600 runs with times of 2:06.32 and 4:59.54. Lonnie Wilson stayed busy. He leaped 19-3.5 to win the long jump. He also had second and third-place finishes in the 200 and 400 dash.

The Panthers' 1,600 relay team of Mason Ferber, Jacob

SEE **BOYS TRACK, C4**

Hayfield Vikings claim Gopher track title

NRHEG, Medford and BP compete

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Hayfield came away victorious, but just 15 points separated first and fourth-place at the girls' Gopher Conference Track and Field Meet at Blooming Prairie High School on Tuesday, May 13.

The Vikings finished with 117 total team points. They were followed by Maple River with 113, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva 105, Medford 102, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 99, United South Central 74, Blooming Prairie 57, Faribault Bethlehem Academy 43.

NRHEG claimed two individual conference champions in Caitlin Goette and the 1,600-meter relay team. Goette won the 400 dash with a time of one minutes and 3.90 seconds and finished fifth in the high jump. She was also a member of the winning 1,600 relay team along with Jayna Finseth, Raquel Fischer and Journey Utpadel, which finished the race in 4:30.46. Utpadel also finished third in the 800 run with a time of 2:37.91.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Medford's Racheal Luebbe competes at the 2018 MSHSL State Meet at Hamline University in Saint Paul.

Some of the Panthers other top performers were Evelyn Nydegger (third in the 400), Tori Vaale (fourth in the 1,600), Micaela Vaale (second in the 3,200), Annabelle Petsinger (third in the 3,200), Natalie Johnson (second in the 100 hurdles and third in the 300 hurdles) and Diamond Woollard (fourth in the discus).

Micaela Vaale, Tori Vaale, Petsinger and Olvia Kofstad also earned silver in the 3,200 relay.

NRHEG competes at its subsection meet on Thursday at Fairmont.

Medford won as many events, four, as Hayfield, but lacked the depth necessary to come away victorious.

"I am extremely proud of both teams," Medford head coach Kevin Werk said.

The Tigers were led by senior Racheal Luebbe and newcomers Emma Kniefel and Kiley Nihart.

Luebbe, a 2018 state meet qualifier, claimed individual championships in the high and triple jumps with leaps of 5-feet-5-inches and 33-6.75.

"[Luebbe] has been a stud for us this year," Werk said. "She is our leading scorer and usually competes in four events every meet. We will probably reduce that to two or three events for subsections

SEE **GIRLS TRACK, C4**

ATHLETICS

Owatonna name finalists for top male and female athletes

STAFF REPORT

Owatonna High School recently released its finalists for its top male and female athletes of the 2018-19 school year.

Jake Miller, Cade King and Jason Williamson are the three finalist for senior male athlete of the year, and Ali An, Sydney Kretlow and Maylynn Prokopec are the finalists for senior female athlete of the year.

The three finalists for junior male athlete of the year are Keenan Young, Ethan Walter and Zach Wiese and the finalist for the female junior athlete of the year are Asia Buryska, Kaia Elstad and Sara Anderson.

The winners in each category will be announced during the OHS Sports Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the OHS Auditorium.

LACROSSE

Owatonna girls closing in on conference title

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna girls lacrosse can clinch a share of the Big 9 Conference Championship with a win in its season finale after they went 2-1 this past week.

"Our defense continues to grow and play outstanding," Owatonna head coach Dan Paur said. "They are playing well as a unit. Our offense stay potent and scored at will."

The Huskies (9-3 overall, 8-1 Big 9 Conference) won 15-0 against Southwest Christian (0-10 overall) on Friday, May 17 and 14-4 against Rochester Century (5-6 overall, 4-5 Big 9 Conference) Monday, May 13. Owatonna fell 12-7 Rochester John Marshall/Lourdes (8-1 overall, 8-1 Big 9 Conference) on Thursday, May 16.

Owatonna and JM/Lourdes will finished tied for the Big 9 title if they both win their final regular season game on Monday, May 20. Owatonna hosts Rochester Mayo (2-8 overall, 2-7 Big 9), and RJML hosts Northfield (2-9, 1-8).

SOFTBALL

NRHEG splits doubleheader to end regular season

Stork hurls another gem for Panthers

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva softball closed out the regular by splitting doubleheader at home against a pair of Gopher Conference foes on Thursday, May 16

NRHEG shutout Faribault Bethlehem Academy, 3-0, in the first game, but fell 9-3 to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown in the second.

Panthers pitcher Sophie Stork twirled another gem in the circle against the Cardinals (5-10 overall, 5-9 Gopher Conference).

She had 13 strikeouts while allowing just one hit and walking only one batter.

"Stork had another great game," NRHEG head coach Wendy Schultz said. "The girls played good defense behind her."

Stork also led the Panthers offensively with a double and one run scored.

NRHEG only managed two more hits, but were able to score two runs in the third with the help of a Cardinals' error. The Panthers plated the final run in the bottom of the sixth.

Sidney Schultz and Ava Kyllo garnered the other two Panther hits.

NRHEG committed one error and BA had three errors.

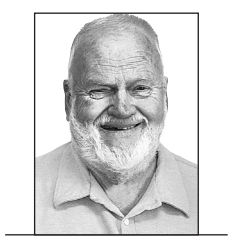
Stork also pitched in the second game against the

SEE **NRHEG SOFTBALL, C3**

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva hurler Sophie Stork lets one fly in action against Blooming Prairie on the Blossoms' home grounds. NRHEG blanked the Awesome Blossoms, 14-0 in five innings.

PLAYOFFS HERE



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

The spring sports teams have either completed or nearly completing their regular season schedules and are now in playoff contention.

The Blooming Prairie baseball and softball teams go into action with aspirations of some playoff victories, despite losing records.

The track teams and the golfers also look forward to their subsection and section competition.

I regret that my physical condition has not allowed me to attend any of the spring contests for the teams, and I apologize for the meager coverage I have been able to provide.

Still, I wish all the competitors the best of luck the rest of the way.

PAPER SALE

For most of the readers of daily papers the news out of Rochester last week probably didn't even rate a passing remark. But for those of us who depended on the Post Bulletin for our printing projects, the sale of the paper to the Fargo Forum Company may have some permanent effects.

For just about all of the 28 years I have worked for the Times, my articles and sports reports have met deadlines imposed by our paper and the Post Bulletin. Although those deadlines have been suggested as being Friday, the local staff is aware that late breaking information comes in over the weekend and doesn't get in the page layouts until Sunday

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SOFTBALL

Awesome Blossoms stop losing streak in season finale

Snider hammers 6 RBIs

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie softball ended it long losing streak by winning its final regular season game in convincing fashion, winning 17-7 at Medford (3-11 overall, 2-10 Gopher Conference) in five innings.

It pulled the Awesome Blossoms up to a 7-10 overall record and a 5-9 conference mark in the last regular season contest.

BP scored all 17 runs in the first three innings.

Riauna Bishop twirled the victory, although she allowed 10 hits and four earned runs. She also had two strikeouts and no walks.

The Blossoms had a total of eight hits; two each by Emily Miller and Marti Snider (two doubles) and one each by Maya Lembke, Maren Forystek, Bobbie Bruns and Allison Krohnberg (double).

Snider had six total RBIs. She was also one of four Blossoms who scored three times. The three others were Bruns, Forystek and Miller.

Bruns also had two stolen bases, Forystek had an RBI and stolen base, Miller had three RBIs, Julia Worke had a RBI, Maya Lembke had three RBIs, Macy Lembke had one RBI and scored once, Krohnberg scored two runs and stole twice and Melanie Winzenburg scored two runs.

BP committed two errors, while Medford committed one. The Tigers had 10 total hits in the game.

The Blossoms hosted Faribault Bethlehem Academy (5-10 overall, 5-9 Gopher Conference) on Monday, May 20 in opening round of the subsection tournament.

Check the Steele County Times next week to see how BP and Medford have faired in the postseason.

BP GIRLS LOSE AGAIN

Although it marked another loss for the Blossom girls, the team played well in a 2-1 loss to Hayfield on Thursday, May 16, at Hayfield.

The Vikings (8-8 overall, 6-7 Gopher Conference) broke a 1-0 Blossom lead with two runs in the fifth inning, which was just enough for the victory.

Bishop pitched the game for BP, allowing the two runs on five hits and striking out six while walking none.

The Blossoms had five total hits; two by Macy Lembke and one each by Maya Lembke, Forystek and Worke. Forystek also had an RBI and Worke scored a run.

Hayfield had five total hits and three errors, while BP committed one error.

BLOSSOMS EXTEND LOSING SKID

BP extended its recent losing streak with an 8-4 loss at Faribault Bethlehem Academy on Tuesday, May 14.

Bishop pitched all seven innings for BP. She surrendered 10 hits and eight runs, but only three were earned.

She walked two and struck out two.

Macy Lembke had a hit and a run for the Blossoms.

Maya Lembke stroked a double and scored a run, and Emily Miller had a single, scored a run and stole a base in the game.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Maya Lembke of Blooming Prairie swings at an offering from Sophie Stork of NRHEG in action last week. The Panthers shut out the Awesome Blossoms, 14-0.

BASEBALL

Errors cost Blossoms

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie sophomore pitcher Chris Naatz performed well in his first career varsity start, giving up just three earned runs. Unfortunately, the Triton Cobras (8-10 overall, 5-10 Hiawatha Valley Conference) managed a 7-2 victory at THS on Friday, May 17.

The turning point of the game was when Triton scored five runs in the third inning.

"The difference today was an error-filled third-inning and leaving 11 Blossoms baserunners stranded," BP head coach Matt Kittelson said.

Triton also plated single runs in the second and fourth.

BP (6-12 overall, 4-10 Gopher Conference) scored its two runs in the fourth, but the Blossoms could not generate anymore offense.

BP had just four hits in the game; one each by Payton Simon, Luke Rennie, Karson Vigeland and Alex Miller. Ian Wayne and had an RBI and Vigeland and Tim Wolf scored runs.

Triton had five total hits; two by Colt Kelly and one each by Austin Melder, Colby Dobbs and Derek Lilledahl.

Each team had three errors.

BP travels to Schaeffer Academy (6-12 overall, 6-6 Southeast Conference) on Monday, May 20 in its regular season finale.

The Blossoms will host Faribault Bethlehem Academy (3-12 overall, 3-11 Gopher Conference) on Wednesday in the opening round of the subsection tournament.

VIKINGS SCUTTLE BLOSSOMS

BP came up short at Hayfield (17-2 overall, 11-2 Gopher Conference), losing 8-2, Thursday, May 16.

The Blossoms had some success from the plate, but errors and stranded runners cost the team.

"We hit the ball fairly well today, but left seveb runners on base opposed to their leaving three," Kittelson said. "Hayfield is a very solid team defensively and they made plays when they needed to. Our three errors in the field and at least that many base-running errors made the difference in the game."

Hayfield scored two runs in each of the first three innings, helped along by BP miscues, and added single runs in the next two innings. The Blossoms scored their two runs in the fourth.

BP had eight total hits

Simon and Miller had two each, and Trenton Swenson had one and drove in two runs.

Colin Lerum, Rennie and Vigeland each also had a hit.

Hayfield had nine hits and no errors.

BP DOUBLE WINNER BETHLEHEM

BP swept BA in a home-doubleheader on Tuesday, May 14.

The Blossoms reached double digits in each game by defeating the Cardinals 10-8 and 10-6.

"The guys came ready to play today mustering 13 hits in the first game,"BP coach Matt Kittelson said. "We had a 7-0 lead after the fourth following Luke Rennie's two-run home run. We struggled in the field after a pitching change in the top of the seventh, but Luke Larkoski was able to get Jack Clark to ground out to first base to end the game."

Simon stroked a trio of hits in the game, including a two doubles. He also scored three runs.

Rennie, Vigeland and Wayne added a pair of singles each, and Lerum, Swenson, Wolf and Miller had a hit each.

Rennie had three RBIs and scored twice, Lerum had two RBIs and scored once, Wolf had two RBIs, Vigeland had one RBI, Wayne scored twice, Miller scored once and Jarrett Larson scored once.

The Cardinals had 10 total hits and two errors, while BP commited four errors.

Riding the momentum from game one, the Blossoms jumped to a 10-0 advantage midway through game two, but then had to withstand a rally.

Simon pitched the Blossoms to the big lead, giving up just one hit in 3.1 innings.

Miller replaced Simon, but four straight errors foiled the pitching relief, as four of the five runs Miller gave up were unearned.

Rennie led the hitters in this game, pounding out three hits with two runs and four RBIs.

Miller and Wayne each added two hits and Lerum, Simon, Wolf and Larkoski had one each.

"Miller pitched very well," Kittelson said. "It was an extremely odd inning, but we were able to get out of it before further damage was done."

BP had six errors; B.A. had six hits and six errors.

It marked the first time this season the boys had won three straight games.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

BP's Karson Vigeland hits a line drive in a Gopher Conference battle earlier this season at BPHS.

GOLF

Maple River wins Gopher Conference golf titles

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Maple River boys and girls golf teams claimed Gopher Conference Championships on Thursday, May 16 after the conference finals at Lakeside Golf Club in Waseca.

Total team scores were accumulated from the meet at Lakeside and meets from April 9 at Oak View Golf Course in Alden, April 16 at Riverview Golf Course in New Richland, April 23 at Oaks Golf course in Hayfield, April 29 at the Blooming Prairie Country Club, May 6 at Riverview and May 14 at Faribault Golf and Country Club.

The Eagles boys team finished with a team score of 348. They were followed by United South Central with 359, Faribault Bethlehem Academy with 352, Blooming Prairie with 398, Hayfield with 408 and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva with 439.

Maple River's Andrew Hoppe won medalist and all-conference honors.

Other all-conference performers were Khrystjan Peterson (Bethlehem Academy, Mason Sohre (Maple River), Andrew Heggen (USC), Nolan Magnuson (USC), Keegan Bronson (Hayfield) and Colin Jordison (Blooming Prairie).

Hayfield's Ethan Koski, USC's Carson Wegner and Blake Legred, Maple River's Teien Murphy and Bethlehem Academy's Brody Pavel were named honorable mention.

Just three of the girls team had enough golfers to register team scores.

Maple River finished with 483, USC had 534 and NRHEG had 539.

Hayfield's Macy Holtan won medalist and all-conference honors with a 108.

Blooming Prairie's Halle Strunk also earned all-conference after finishing third in the season long competition. This was Strunk's first season on the golf team.

Compete results were not made available in time to meet the print edition.

BLOSSOMS CLAIM SILVER AT STEWARTVILLE

Blooming Prairie participated in its fifth match in seven days at the Stewie Invite hosted by Stewartville at Willow Creek Golf Course In Rochester.

The weather was cool with a light rain and the Blossoms finished in second-place out of the five teams that participated.

Stewartville won the meet with a score 318, followed by BP with 385, LeRoy Ostrander-Grand Meadow 388, Hayfield 390 and Lanesboro 399. Stewartville's Carter Jannsen and Nick Lechtenberg tied for medalist honors with 75s.

Jordison led the Blossoms with a 83, followed by David Kartes with a 98, Garret Farr with a 101 and Sam Pirkl with a 103.

GOLF

Huskies continue to improve as postseason nears

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna boys golf team may have finished 10th out of 10 teams at the Prior Lake Invitational on Thursday, May 16 at the Wild Golf Club, but head coach Mark Langlois said he felt the team played better than what its final score indicated.

"The player's club selection and target selection were a lot better today," Langlois said. "We improved in many areas by playing a great, difficult golf course that will help us as we prepare for the post season."

The Huskies finished with a team score of 362. Brody Homan shot a 87, Ryan Rohwer a 89, Sam Snitker and Bradyn Larson a 93, Jonny Wall a 94 and Nolan Jacobson a 109.

Larson score was his best of the season.

"Braydn Larson had it going today by playing the par 5s one under par," Langlois said. "He hit the ball great off the tee and made some putts. Brody Homan drove the ball well and hit some solid irons today which helped him shoot our low score, and Ryan Rohwer hit more greens than any other round this year. His ball striking and short game is getting better and better. All six players grinded out the best score they could today. That is all I can ask for as a coach."

HUSKIES BEAT FALCONS

Owatonna defeated Faribault 361-374 in a Big 9 dual meet at Faribault Golf and Country Club on Monday, May 13.

The Huskies got off to great start with Jonny Wall, Brody Homan and Braydn Larson birdieing their first hole.

"It was nice day to be on the course, and we were glad to get a Big 9 win today," Langlois said. "As the round progressed, we unfortunately made many poor decisions on club selection and course management. We threw a lot of shots away by not making the smart play or picking the club that would get us in the best position around the greens."

Wall was Owatonna's top golfer. He finished with an 85, and was followed by Homan and Snitker with 88s, Larson with a 100, Joey Brueggemeier with a 105 and Sam Sampson with a 108.

"The Huskies will learn from their mistakes today and be better players in the rounds to come," Langlois said. "Each round is a barometer on what we are doing well and need to work on."

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna golfer Ryan Rohwer competes at the Owatonna Country Club.

Owatonna girls win Big 9 triangular meet

STAFF REPORT

Owatonna girls golf earned a solid win on Tuesday, May 14 at the Owatonna Country Club.

The Huskies finished with a score of 426 and won the triangular meet against Mankato West (431) and Faribault (450).

Faribault's Rachel Bostwick earned medalist honors after she shot a 90.

Owatonna's Katie Ihrke finished second with a 102, Danika Kaytor was third with a 104, Greta Korbel was seventh with a 108, Leah Seykora was eighth with a 112, Hailey Zempel was 10th with a 116 and Cassie Maine was 16th with a 126.

The Huskies junior varsity team came just short and finished two strokes behind Mankato West.

Mankato West shot a 246, Owatonna a 248 and Faribault a 263.

The Huskies junior varsity individual scores were Lilly Hunst with a 61, Mady Simon and Makayla Mahlman with 62s, Emily Schmidt with a 63, Brooke Kunkel with a 72 and Madie McGinn with a 82.

HUSKIES FIFTH AT RED WING

Owatonna competed in a stroke play and two-person best ball event at the Red Wing Varsity Invitational on Thursday, May 16.

The Huskies finished fifth out of six teams in the best ball competition after seventh graders Kaytor and Hunst shot a 96, sophomores Angie Bartz and Emily Christjansen shot a 97 and eighth graders Mahlman and Kunkel shot a 110.

Kaytor shot a 99, Christjansen a 107, Bartz a 112, Hunsta 115, Mahlman a 116 and Kunkel a 123 in the stroke play competition.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK LANGLOIS

The Owatonna girls golf team stands for a photo during the Red Wing Varsity Invitational on Thursday, May 16.

NRHEG SOFTBALL: *Panthers defeat Hayfield*

FROM C1

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Awesome Blossoms pitcher Riauna Bishop delivers a fastball in a Gopher Conference matchup earlier this season.

Buccaneers (18-0 overall, 14-0 Gopher Conference), but didn't have nearly as much success against the conference champions.

She allowed 10 hits and six earned runs, but struck out eight and walked four.

The Panthers had seven total hits; two each by Madi Knudson and Ava Kyllo and one each by Grace Tufte, Stork and Paige Knudson. Stork, Schultz and Sarah Johns scored runs. Alexis Anderson had two RBIs, Madi Knudson had one RBI and Paige Knudson stole a base.

"We couldn't get the bats going until the later in the game,"Schultz said. "We only had one hit until the fifth-inning. We have to give credit to WEM as they were on with their hitting. We look to regroup and hope to be playing our best ball in playoffs next week."

The Panthers ended the regular season with a 15-4 overall record. They finished second in the Gopher Conference with 12-2 conference mark. NRHEG will likely host a game in the opening round of the section tournament on Tuesday, May 21 at 5 p.m.

PANTHERS DOWN HAYFIELD

There is seemingly no stopping NRHEG softball, as the Panthers scored an impressive win at Hayfield (8-8 overall, 6-7 Gopher Conference) on Tuesday, May 14.

The Panthers defeated the Vikings after they tallied three runs in the first inning, more than enough to secure the victory.

"Stork pitched a great game," Schultz said. "It was a good win after playing five games in three days."

Stork allowed just four hits, struck out 15 Viking batters and walked three.

She also helped her own cause with a pair of hits and two runs scored.

Johns, Anderson, Cloie Arndt, Paige Knudson and Schultz also had a one hit each. Johns, Arndt and Knudson scored a run while Anderson had two RBIs and Arndt had one RBI.

NRHEG had one error while Hayfield had five.

NRHEG BLANKS BP

NRHEG continued its gaudy season by blanking Blooming Prairie, 14-0, in five innings at Blooming Prairie on Monday, May 13.

The Blossoms had no answers for the Panthers' pitching and offensive attack.

"This was a good team win," Schultz said. "We were able to get a lot of offense from our entire team, which was nice to see."

A six-run outburst by NRHEG in the top of the fifth ended the the game.

Stork allowed just three singles, struck out five and walked none.

BP's Riauna Bishop toiled all five innings for the Blossoms, giving up just six earned runs among the 15 hits she surrendered.

Arndt and Erin Jacobson led the Panther offense with three hits each, and Madi Knudson, Paige Knudson, Kyllo and Schultz had two hits each.

Paige Knudson fill up the stat sheet with a triple, an inside the park home run, scored three runs and had two RBIs.

Additionally, Arndt scored three runs and stole one base; Jacobson scored two runs; had one RBI and stole a base; Schultz scored a run, had three RBIs and stole a base; Kyllo scored two runs and had one RBI: Anderson scored one run; Johns scored once and stole twice and Madi Knudson scored once, had one RBI and stole a base.

The Blossoms' Maya Lembke, Allison Krohnberg and Bobbie Bruns had the lone hits for the team.

"The hitters all had productive at bats," Schultz said. "[Paige Knudson's] home run was a treat to watch because of her speed around the bases."

NRHEG had no errors while BP had four.

PANTHERS GO 2-1 AT HAYFIELD TOURNAMENT

NRHEG sandwiched a loss to Class A No. 1 ranked Carlton between two wins at the Hayfield Invitational Tourney on Saturday, May 11.

The Panthers shut down Lyle-Pacelli (5-7 overall, 2-5 Southeast Conference) in the opener, lost a close one to Carlton (15-1 overall, 9-1 Polar Conference) and whitewashed Houston (3-8 overall, 2-4 Southeast Conference). Kyllo was very consistent throughout the tournament going 11-for-12 from the plate.

NRHEG defeated Houston, 11-1, in the third-place game of the tournament.

Sarah Johns picked up the win with two innings of work and five strikeouts.

Stork pitched the first four innings, striking out seven and walking three. The Panthers snapped a 1-1 in when they erupted for eight runs in the fifth-inning.

The game was a shortened one inning because of the mercy rule.

Kyllo had four hits to lead the Panther hitters and scored twice and Schultz added three hits, The Panthers had three other payers contributed two hits each, including doubles from both Stork and Madi Knudson.

The big game of the day saw Class No. 1 Carlton edged NRHEG 7-6, thanks to three runs late in the game.

The Panthers actually led with a run in the first, another in the fourth and two in the fifth. The late scoring from Carlton left Stork with the loss.

"This was a great game," Schultz said. "We even had chances to win with a hit at the right time, but it just didn't happen. We had 14 hits in the game, which should have been enough to get a victory, but not today."

Kyllo had four hits in this game also, and Stork, Madi Knudson and Jones all added a pair of hits each.

Stork and Madi Knudson each scored two runs with their efforts, and Arndt drove in two runs.

"Carlton is a good team that is undefeated and ranked in state," Schultz said. "We definitely had our chances to win the game. Defensively we played well, but had some costly base running miscues."

In the tourney opener, Stork spun a one-hitter in the circle to blank Lyle-Pacelli, 15-0.

Stork didn't walk a batter, and she struck out seven Athletics.

NRHEG had 16 hits and no errors while LP had one hit and six errors.

Madi Knudson and Kyllo had three hits each to lead the offense.

Arndt, Schultz and Paige Knudson each had two hits.

BASEBALL

Tigers split 2 doubleheaders

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

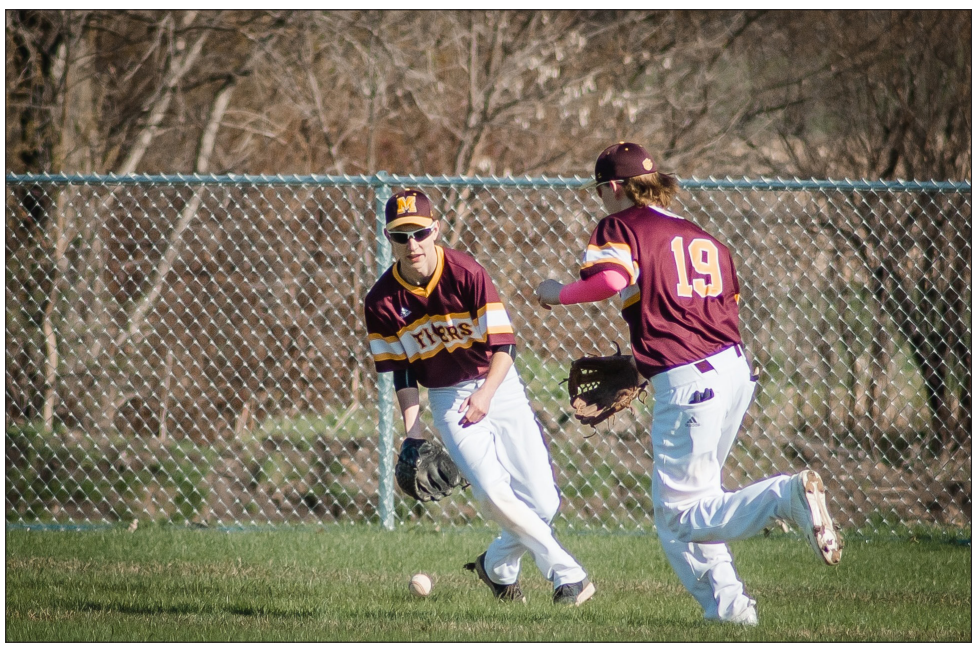

PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYE DEVOE

Medford's Jordan Edel and Jordyn Hansen scramble for the ball in a Gopher Conference battle against Hayfield earlier this season.

Medford baseball (8-9 overall, 6-5 Gopher Conference) split a doubleheader at home with United South Central (11-7 overall, 9-5 Gopher Conference) on Thursday, May 16.

The Rebels defeated the Tigers 15-12 in the first game, despite Medford scoring six runs in the seventh-inning to make things interesting.

"We battled, got down by nine going into the seventh, and battled back to 15-12 with the tie run at the plate," Medford head coach Jon Chappuis said. "It was good to see the battle in them and also putting up some offense."

AJ Vandereide continues to swing a hot bat after finishing with two hits, including a double, two RBIs and scored a run.

"[Vandereide] is one of the toughest outs right now and driving the ball," Chappuis said. "Both guys in front of him in the line-up are finding ways to get on base. That can lead to runs. It was good to see the offense up and down the lineup."

Medford's Jordan Edel also hit a double, had two hits, two RBIs and scored once.

The Tigers had 13 total hits. Jeremiah Sutcliffe and Zach Wetmore also had two hits each. Sutcliffe also had a RBI and scored a run, and Wetmore had three RBIs.

The Tigers' Willie VonRuden, Boden Devoe, Jordyn Hansen, Zachary Finholdt and Jack Paulson had a hit each and Devoe, Finholdt and Paulson had a RBI each.

Paulson took the loss after pitching two innings. He allowed five runs on four hits with a strikeout and a walk. Devoe pitched 4.1 innings. He allowed five runs on five hits with four strikeouts and seven walks.

Hansen pitched 0.2 inning and also allowed five runs on five hits. He also walked two batters.

Medford turned the tide on the Rebels in game two and won 8-5.

VonRuden earned the win from the mound. He pitched four innings and allowed just one run on one hit while striking out six and walking seven.

Vandereide earned the save after pitching the final three innings. He allowed four runs on four hits with four strikeouts and no walks.

"[VonRuden] battled with his control, pitch count and a stomach illness the entire game," Chappuis said. "But the young man is a competitor, limited damage and only gave up one run to get the win."

Medford managed only six hits; three by Sutcliffe, two by Vandereide and one by Devoe. Sutcliffe and Vandereide each had a double. Sutcliffe also had two RBIs and scored two runs and Vandereide scored twice. Finholdt had two RBIs and scored a run; Hansen had two RBIs; Devoe had a RBI and scored a run, VonRuden added a RBI and Justin Ristau and Edel scored one run each.

"In both games, we battled a team that had an outside chance to win the Gopher Conference and came away with a win in the second one," Chappuis said. "USC is a very good team and will make some noise in their section tournament, so taking one from them tonight was a very good win. It shows what we can do when we play good baseball."

Medford also split another doubleheader earlier in the week with Maple River (6-12 overall, 5-8 Gopher Conference).

The Tigers defeated the Eagles 10-0 in game one, but lost 11-8 in game two.

Devoe earned the win in game one after he pitched all five innings. He only surrendered two hits and had one strikeout and one walk.

"[Devoe] pitched exceptionally well," Chappuis said. "He kept his fastball down and Maple River had difficulty squaring that pitch up."

The Tigers had nine total hits: three by Vandereide, two by Sutcliffe and one each by VonRuden, Hansen, Wetmore and Edel. Hansen and VonRuden each had a double.

Sutcliffe had three RBIs and scored twice; Vandereide also scored twice; Devoe and Hansen each had one RBI and scored once; Edel had two RBIs and scored once and Reed Cumberland scored twice.

"AJ Vandereide is feeling very comfortable in the batters box," Chappuis said. "He is a top hitter in the conference when he is in the zone."

Vandereide took the loss in game two after pitching 3.2 innings. He allowed 10 runs on eight hits with two walks.

Paulson pitched 2.1 innings and surrendered one run on three hits with two strikeouts and one walk, and Cumberland pitched one inning and allowed no runs, one hit and had one strikeout.

"We talk about minimizing our mistakes and maximizing on theirs," Chappuis said. "We didn't do that this game. Plain and simple, just too many mistakes and we did not take advantage of Maple River's mistakes. Hats off to the Eagles. They did everything they need to do to win that game."

Medford had seven total hits. Hansen had two doubles, and Vandereide had a double and a triple. Sutcliffe, DeVoe and Cumberland each had a single. Vandereide led the Tigers with three RBIs and two runs scored. Sutcliffe and VonRuden each scored twice, Devoe had a RBI, Hansen had a RBI and scored once, Cumberland had an RBI, and Edel scored once.

Medford travels to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (12-5 overall, 5-8 Gopher Conference) on Monday, May 20 in its regular season finale.

AUTO RACING

Chateau cancels race due to weather woes

SUBMITTED BY MATTHEW GRAGE

Mother Nature continues to have her way with the 2019 racing season at Chateau Speedway in Lansing.

For the second time this season, she has taken over a Friday night and cost race fans a night of racing excitement. This time she changed her appearance literally over night. After two days of bright sunshine and temperatures in the 80s, she switched to 50s clouds and rain with potentially severe weather in store for the evening.

Track officials spent all week preparing for the night and were working the track Friday morning when light rain started. They kept working until the rain got a little heavier and the surface became to slick to work on. After waiting awhile and watching it rain and looking at radar and the forecast they determined there was little likelihood of getting the show in so the decision was made to pull the plug and give everyone a chance to make other plans for the evening.

The track will now turn its attention to the big shows lined up for next weekend, Memorial Day weekend.

Race fans will want to plan there weekend around two great nights of action at Chateau Speedway. On Friday Night, the IMCA Stock Cars make their return to Lansing for the first time since 2013. The Inaugural Toots Trucking IMCA Shootout will feature $1,000 to win and $75 to start the feature, and with contingency sponsor money, numbers will likely be higher.

The tracks' five regular classes will be running as well on the night.

The French's Repair USRA A Mods, The Action Builders USRA B Mods, The WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds, The Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stocks and the Power 96 WISOTA Pure Stocks will also be on the program.

Y Waste WISSOTA Hornets and KEVKO Outlaw Mini Mods will have the night off.

IMCA Cars will be running for national points while the other classes will be running for track points as well as national points.

Regular admission prices at the gate and the pits for the Friday night show. First green flag of the night is set for 7:15 p.m. with Draw Cutoff at 6:45 p.m. and Hot Laps at 6:30 p.m.

Then on Sunday night it's the Inaugural Spirit of 83 Memorial.

The event will be the continuation of the annual Mike Guttormson Memorial which has run since 1998, the year after Mike passed away after winning the final feature of his career at his home track.

The renaming of the event is to include all those drivers, pit crew members and fans who have shared Mike's Spirit or Passion for Chateau who we have lost over the years. He was one of the most dedicated of all drivers to Lansing and often referred to his race nights at the track as "Going to Heaven."

Sunday's program will carry an increased purse for all classes with the A Mods running for a minimum of $1,600 to win and one of the most beautiful trophies you may ever see.

These days where it seems like trophies need to be six-feet tall or more, this one only stands about a foot tall. It is made of glass and weighs over five pounds.

The Sunday night Memorial Race will start at 6 p.m. with Hot Laps at 5:15 p.m.

OUTSIDE THE LINES: *Take time to remember*

FROM C1

evening.

For that I give full credit to sports editor Dennis Marshall for his cooperation in rushing some of my stories into the paper at the very last minute.

Sometimes it borders on Monday morning, I am sure.

Anyway, what the change in ownership of the Rochester paper will do to our deadlines at our paper is anybody's guess.

A disruption or a change in procedure could be in the offing, which would force a change in my and other local staff deadlines.

I will hope that the change in ownership will elicit no change in our deadlines, but a wait and see attitude is now in force. We will probably soon find out about any different procedures.

A DAY OF HONOR

I was one of the fortunate citizens who never had to serve my country as part of military service, but I certainly have as much appreciation as the next person for the many men and women who have served and even sacrificed their lives for the cause of democracy.

Maybe that is why I have spent some time lately thinking about how it is through their experience that we continue to celebrate freedom in the only true democracy and think enough about them to set aside a special time to honor them. Memorial Day is that day, and next weekend we will have special activities for that honor.

Although our community is a little more subdued in its celebration than some, we still take time and sponsor activities to commemorate the occasion.

Festivities at the Servicemen's Club, a program at the cemetery and other observances will take place, and we will have opportunity to honor our service personnel.

ED FOUNDATION GIVES

Last week the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation released notice of a few of the projects the organization funded, and it is an impressive number.

One specific project was a $70,000 amount for a Big Ideas Challenge.

Other projects also received funding, and it marked another very successful year amazing donations for the local school district.

Another neat activity I noted last week involved a cheerleader sponsored birthday party for several youngsters.

It just highlighted the many ways in which the community and individuals pull together to help education.

CHANGE COMING?

As I mentioned earlier in the column, the change in the ownership as put the staff of the Times in a state of apprehension. Big changes may be on the way, but, hopefully, nothing will change. We will probably soon find out. Root for the Blossom athletes, enjoy the spring weather around the raindrops, and well talk again.

BOYS TRACK: *Medford second, best since program started*

FROM C1

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

NRHEG's Daniel Nydegger leads the pack during the 1,600 run at the Gopher Conference Meet on Tuesday, May 13 at BPHS.

Schuller and Teddy and Agro Gushwa claimed gold with a winning time of 3:37.47. Additionally, Teddy and Agro Gushwa were third and fourth in the 400 with times of 54.27 and 54.56, respectively, and Agro was second in the high jump with a leap of 5-10.

Schuller finished third in high jump and fifth in the 200. Alex Buckmeier was second in the shot put and discus with throws of 44-0 and 128-4.

Agrimson, Nydegger, Wilson, Ferber, Schuller, Teddy Gushwa and Agro Gushwa were named all-conference.

NRHEG competes at its subsection meet on Thursday at Fairmont.

Medford's second-place finish the best conference finish since the program was started in 2004.

The Tiger's 3,200 relay team of Tyler and Cohen Stursa, Ryan Hermanstorfer and Garrett Fitzgerald easily finished first with a time of 9:09.74. Maple River placed second, but was more than 30 seconds behind the Tigers.

"Our boys [3,200 relay team] has been running great all year," Medford coach Kevin Werk said. "They have already broke the school record. I believe their dominance at the conference meet relates to the [cross country] team winning the conference this fall. Our boys distance team has become one of our strengths."

Medford's 400 relay team also performed well. The team of Noah Pirkl, Devan List, Gunner List and Jerone Chavis claimed silver with a time of 47.66 behind first place WEM. Chavis also claimed silver in the in the 200 dash with a time of 24.52, Brett Johnson finished second in the pole vault with a jump of 12 feet and Luke Johnston won and set personal records in the wheelchair shot put and discus with throws of 22-11.5 and 52.5.

The Tigers will host their subsection meet on Tuesday, May 21.

Gabe Hagen was Blooming Prairie's only boy to claim an individual conference title, but the Awesome Blossoms had plenty of second-place finishers.

"I was very pleased with our team performances at conference, BP head coach Chelsea Van Roekel said. "It was very close between the second and fourth-place boys teams. The improvement and success we had at the conference meet make for a promising future and hopefully success starting Thursday at subsections."

Hagen displayed a rare combination of strength and speed by winning the shot put with a throw of 45-7 and finishing second in the 100 with a time of 11.70. Isaac Ille placed second in the 800 and 1,600 with times of 2:09.15 and 5:04.25, and Xavier Rennie was fifth in each of the hurdle events. The 800 relay team of Mitchell Fiebiger, Sam Smith, James Wohlferd and Hagen earned another silver for the Blossoms.

Blooming Prairie travels to Stewartville on Thursday for its subsection meet.

GOPHER CONFERENCE MEET

(Editor's Note* Complete results for NRHEG, BP and Medford)

Tuesday, May 14 at Blooming Prairie High School

BOYS

Team Results: NRHEG 181, Medford 102, WEM 94.5, Blooming Prairie 91, Maple River 90, USC 58, Hayfield 52.5, Bethlehem Academy 29.

100-meter dash: 1, Jaden Taylor (WEM) 11.56; 2, Gabe Hagen (BP) 11.70; 3, Brady Agrimson (NRHEG) 11.78; 5, Lonnie Wilson (NRHEG) 12.03; 6, Jerone Chavis (Medford) 12.14; 9, Mitchell Fiebiger (BP) 12.36; 10, Ezra Kiley (BP) 12.43; 13, Max Seltun (NRHEG) 12.55; 14, Gunner White (Medford) 12.57; 19, Devan List (Medford) 12.91.

200 dash: 1, Derek Christenson (USC) 23.28; 2, Chavis (Medford) 24.52; 3, Wilson (NRHEG) 24.64; 5, Jacob Schuller (NRHEG) 24.80; 8, Kiley (BP) 25.35; 10, White (Medford) 25.69; 11, Sam Smith (BP) 25.82; 13, Devon Federly (Medford) 26.07; 16, Matthew Mueller (NRHEG) 26.63.

400 dash: 1, Christenson (USC) 52.45; 2, Wilson (NRHEG) 53.43; 3, Teddy Gushwa (NRHEG) 54.27; 4, Agro Gushwa (NRHEG) 54.56; 5, Henry Grayson (Medford) 55.22; 10, Samuel Skillestad (BP) 57.72; 12, Tanner Barbeau (Medford) 59.47.

800 run: 1, Daniel Nydegger (NRHEG) 2:06.32; 2, Isaac Ille (BP) 2:09.15; 4, Tyler Stursa (Medford) 2:13.61; 6, Cohen Stursa (Medford) 2:19.17; 7, Caden Riewer (NRHEG) 2:20.50; 10, Jaxon Beck (NRHEG) 2:27.49; 16, Isaac Arnold (BP) 2:39.29.

1,600 run: 1, Nydegger (NRHEG) 4:59.54; 2, Ille (BP) 5:04.25; 3, Riewer (NRHEG) 5:13.22; 5, Garrett Fitzgerald (Medford) 5:21.12; 8, Adam Larson (BP) 5:41.27; 14, Devontae Freese (BP) 6:36.29; 16, Connor Davis (Medford) 6:44.33.

3,200 run: 1, Kole Wenner (MR) 11:52.08; 2, Hosea Baker (BP) 12:09.00; 3, Austin Erickson (Medford) 12:21.12; 4, Conner Nelsen (NRHEG) 12:36.49; 5, Tyler Forystek (BP) 12:40.05; 8, Gavin Anderson (NRHEG) 13:31.95; 9, Eric Arvis (NRHEG) 13:52.54.

110 hurdles: 1, Agrimson (NRHEG 15.25; 3, Mason Ferber 16.59 (NRHEG) 16.59; 5, Xavier Rennie (BP) 17.75.

300 hurdles: 1, Agrimson (NRHEG) 41.24; 2, Ferber (NRHEG) 42.87; 5, Rennie (BP) 46.34; 13, Sawyer Prigge (NRHEG) 52.88.

400 relay: 1, WEM (Taylor, Tyler Hermel, Tanner Ranslow, Isaac Pratt) 44.57; 2, Medford (Noah Pirkl, List, White, Chavis) 47.66; 3, Blooming Prairie (Fiebiger, James Wohlferd, Smith, Kiley) 47.76; 5, NRHEG (Charlie Nissen, Porter Peterson, Matthew Mueller, Max Seltun) 49.66.

800 relay: 1, WEM (Taylor, Hermel, Ranslow, Pratt) 1:34.12; 2, Blooming Prairie (Fiebiger, Smith, Wohlferd, Hagen) 1:37.38; 3, NRHEG (Nissen, Teddy Gushwa, Agro Gushwa, Schuller) 1:38.75; 5, Medford (Brayden Beede, Ernesto Lazaro, Devon Federly, Henry Grayson) 1:44.68.

1,600 relay: 1, NRHEG (Ferber, Schuller, Teddy Gushwa, Agro Gushwa) 3:37.47; 3, Blooming Prairie (Ille, Wohlferd, Skillestad, Rennie) 3:48.43; 5, Medford (Tanner Barbeau, Braden Barbeau, Cohen Stursa, Ryan Hermanstorfer) 3:57.16.

3,200 relay: 1, Medford (Tyler Stursa, Cohen Stursa, Hermanstorfer, Fitzgerald) 9:09.74; 5, NRHEG (Ralph Roesler, Nikolas Petsinger, Beck, Eric Arvis) 10:10.56; 6, Blooming Prairie (Larson, Alex Riley, Baker, Forystek) 10:13.95.

Shot put: 1, Hagen (BP) 45-7.5; 2, Alex Buckmeier (NRHEG) 44-0; 5, Kael Hermanstorfer 39-5.5; 11, Jacob Gasner (Medford) 34-1.5; 16, Michiah VanSyckel (NRHEG) 32-0; 18, Mason Nagel (Medford) 30-8; 19, Brandon Howieson (NRHEG) 29-8.25; 21, Jack Matson (BP) 29-0; 23, Jacob McHenry (BP) 26-8.5.

Shot put wheelchair: 1, Luke Johnston (Medford) 21-11.5.

Discus: 1, Ethan Fischer (MR) 151-5; 2, Buckmeier (NRHEG) 128-4; 4, Kael Hermanstorfer (Medford) 124-1; 5, Hagen (BP) 122-8; 11, Gasner (Medford) 97-3; 12, Nagel (Medford) 96-7; 14, VanSyckel (NRHEG) 93-4; 16, Matson (BP) 87-3 (BP); 17, Howieson (NRHEG) 85-7; 21, Walsh (BP) 80-5.

Discus wheelchair: 1, Luke Johnston (Medford) 52-5.

High jump: 1, Agrimson 6-0; 2, Agro Gushwa (NRHEG) 5-10; 3, Jacob Schuller (NRHEG) 5-10; 4, Devon Federly (Medford) 5-8; 10, Smith (BP) 5-0.

Pole vault: 1, Taylor (WEM) 13-6; 2, Brett Johnson (Medford) 12-0; 4, George McCarthy (Medford) 10-6; 5, Fiebiger (BP) 10-0; 7, Dylan Heiderscheidt (Medford) 9-6; 13, Riley (BP) 6-6.

Long jump: 1, Wilson (NRHEG) 19-3.5; 4, Pirkl (Medford) 18-1; 7, Wohlferd (BP) 17-8; 8, White (Medford) 17-7; 15, Parker Bunn (NRHEG) 13-5.25; 17, Graden Karl (NRHEG) 13-0.25.

Triple jump: 1, Steele Tebay (Hayfield) 39-8.5; 4, Ryan Hermanstorfer (Medford) 37-.275; 7, Rennie (BP) 36-1.5; 8, Lazaro (Medford) 35-8.75; 10, Peterson (NRHEG) 35-2.

BASEBALL

Panthers have rough week

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva baseball suffered a setback this past week when the Panthers lost a pair of games to Bryon (10-8 overall, 8-7 Hiawatha Valley Conference) and Hayfield (17-2 overall, 11-2 Gopher Conference).

However, the Panthers did earn a win against Faribault Bethlehem Academy (3-12 overall, 3-11 Gopher Conference).

NRHEG (7-10 overall, 6-8 Gopher Conference) started the week off with a 10-0 loss at Hayfield on Tuesday, May 14.

"Overall, this was a great pitched game by both starting pitchers," NRHEG head coach Drew Paukert said. "Jake Tasker started the game for us and gave up a two-run homerun in the sixth inning. The home run was simply off a curveball that he left up in the zone a little more then he had wanted. Other then that, he pitched an excellent game in back-to-back starts for us. He is really at his best on the mound headed into the playoffs, which is nice to see."

Tasker also was the one who had the big two-RBI single in the third that scored Blake Ihrke and Sawyer VanMaldeghem, who reached base via a walk and a hit by pitch.

Sawyer VanMaldeghem took the loss for the Panthers.

The Panther rebounded with a 5-4 win at Bethlehem Academy on Thursday, May 16.

"We were able to score early in the game," Paukert said

Tasker singled to score VanMaldeghem who singled in the previous at bat.

Kordell Schlaak singled to follow which plated Tasker.

From there, BA was able to string together three runs in the first two innings.

Spencer Tufte started on the mound, but struggled early with leaving some balls up that BA hit.

"To his credit he was able to get out of some jams minimizing the damage," Paukert said.

Tufte settled in and allow only one run the next 3.1 innings.

NRHEG to regain the lead in the fifth when Tory Christenson led off with a single.

Devin Buendorf bunted him over to second and Graham Kyllo walked.

Nick Staloch had a single to follow.

VanMaldeghem had RBI off a sacrifice fly, followed by a two-run RBI single by Tasker.

VanMaldeghem also earned a five-out save for the Panthers.

"Tasker continues his hot pace at the plate the last few weeks," Paukert said. "Overall, we have been able to put together out best three-game stretch of the season."

NRHEG lost to Byron on Friday, May 17.

"Overall, I thought we played another solid game," Paukert said. "We were able to score in the first when Jake Tasker had an RBI double to score VanMaldeghem. We were able to get some other opportunities due to some walks, but struggled to get a timely hit.

"Byron made some nice plays that took away at least four hits from us tonight," he continued. "Tory Christenson and Kordell Schlaak combined to go seven innings on only 68 pitches. It was Tory's first start of the season and he did a nice job throwing strikes."

NRHEG hosts Blue Earth Area (12-6 overall, 7-6 Big South - Big Conference) on Tuesday, May 21 in its regular season finale.

WRESTLING

Owatonna duo earns academic honors

STAFF REPORT

Owatonna senior wrestlers Nick Staska and Cade King were recently recognized as second-team Academic All-State selections by the Guillotine.

Staska

King

A total of 30 first-team members, 30 second-team members, 31 third-team members and 42 honorable mention wrestlers were selected based on current varsity wins, current state tournament placement and cumulative high school GPA.

Staska had a 36-15 overall record and a fifth-place finish in Class 3A at the MSHSL State Meet this past season while wrestling at the 220-pound weight class. His current GPA is 3.849.

This was Staska's second straight year being recognized by the Guillotine. He was a third-team selection in 2018 after finishing with a 26-12 record and a 3.855 GPA.

King earned second-team honors after finishing this past season with a 49-5 record, a second-place finish at the state meet while wrestling at 182 and a 3.396 GPA.

The Guillotine has covered Minnesota amateur wrestling since 1971 and is viewed by many as the top source. The Guillotine provides individual and team high school rankings, results, records, schedules, camps, feature articles and wrestler profiles.

"Our mission is to report on and promote amateur wrestling at all levels, from youth and high school wrestling to college and Olympic level wrestling," according to the Guillotine's website.

Everyone named to the first team finished fourth or higher at the 2019 state meet, including 13 state champions and eight runners-up. The first team members have an average of 44.6 wins, won 94 percent of their matches and an average GPA of 3.87.

ATHLETICS

Free physicals for area athletes

STAFF REPORT

The Mayo Clinic Health System is offering sports qualifying screenings for athletes in grades seventh through 12th on July 30 and 31 in Family Medicine and Pediatrics on the first floor at Mayo Clinic Health System at 220 26th Street in Owatonna.

Physicals for females will take place on Tuesday, July 30 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and for males on Wednesday, July 31 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Students-athletes are asked to be prepared for the screening and to wear gym shorts and t-shirt, bring school ID, bring completed physical form and avoid caffeine or sports drinks prior to screening.

Sports screening forms can be downloaded from the Minnesota State High School League's website.

For more information call 507-451-1120.

ATHLETICS

2019 Gopher's Coaches Caravan set to visit Owatonna on May 21

STAFF REPORT

Owatonna is one of the four stops of the 2019 Gopher Athletics Coaches Caravan.

The event will take place on Tuesday, May 21 at Torey's Restaurant and Bar at 5:30 p.m. The event is already sold out according the Gophersports.com.

Director of Athletics Mark Coyle, head football coach P.J. Fleck, head volleyball coach Hugh McCutcheon, men's hockey coach Bob Motzko, men's basketball coach Richard Pitino and women's basketball coach Lindsay Whalen are scheduled to attend the event.

The caravan is a new opportunity for Gopher fans to get up close and personal with some of the biggest names in Gopher athletics and provide fans with an inside look. These evening events will include an autograph session, Goldy Gopher.

GIRLS TRACK: *Subsection meet is Thursday at Stewartville*

FROM C1

focusing on the high jump.That is her best event and her best chance at making the podium at the state meet."

Luebbe was also a member of the Tigers' 800 relay team that finished first with a time of 1:53.47 and the 400 relay team that finished second. Both team consisted of Luebbe, Nihart, Kniefel and Brooke Purrier running various legs. Nihart and Kniefel joined the team this season after playing previously playing softball.

"[Emma Kniefel and Kiley Nihart] have been great additions to our team this year," Werk said. "I think they both have great chances of qualifying for the section meet. They both keep getting better each week."

Nihart also won the long jump with a leap of 15-10 and Kniefel placed third in the long and triple jumps, and Kinsey Cronin finished third in the shot put with a toss of 34-4.

The Tigers will host their subsection meet on Tuesday, May 21.

"Our subsection is much more difficult than our conference," Werk said. "There are teams like Byron and Pine Island that are much bigger than we are. We don't really focus on team scores at subsections, we just try to qualify as many athletes to sections as possible."

Blooming Prairie failed to capture any individual conference titles, but head coach Chelsea Van Roekel said the team was missing a few key point scorers.

The Awesome Blossoms top finish was the 1,600 relay team of Anna Kittelson, Grace Krejci, Madi Lea and Sierra Larson that placed second with a time of 4:37.66.

Larson was also fourth in the 200 with a time of 28.84.

Micalyn Trihus was third in the discus and seventh in shot put, Abby Smith was sixth in the 3,200 run and Rachael Oswald was third in the 100 hurdles and fourth in 400 hurdles with times of 18.09 and 53.03, respectively.

"Rachael Oswald is a our lone senior and she has been a strong leader all season, " Van Roekel said. "She continues to take time off of her 100 and 300 hurdle races every single meet, it would be nice to see her compete as long as possible."

Blooming Prairie travels to Stewartville on Thursday for its subsection meet.

GOPHER CONFERENCE MEET

Tuesday, May 14 at Blooming Prairie H.S.

GIRLS

Team Results: Hayfield 117, Maple River 113, NRHEG 105, Medford 102, WEM 88, USC 74, Blooming Prairie 57, Bethlehem Academy 43.

100-meter dash: 1, MaeLea Harmon (WEM) 12.57; 4, Jacquelyn Cole (Medford) 13.79; 5, Brooke Purrier (Medford) 14.11; 11, Josie Strom (NRHEG) 14.35; 12, Faith Borchert (NRHEG) 14.37; 14, Abby Braaten (BP) 14.51; 17, Eliana Tobar (Medford) 14.98; 19, Abby Hefling (BP) 15.46.

100 dash wheelchair: 1, Lilly Stiernagle (MR) 27.32.

200 dash: 1, Madi Schirmer (MR) 26.94; 4, Sierra Larson (BP) 28.84; 6, Cole (Medford) 28.96; 8, Raquel Fischer (NRHEG) 26.69; 10, Elsa Gushwa (NRHEG) 29.97; 12, Borchert (NRHEG) 30.44; 14, Tobar (Medford) 31.76; 18, Taylor Wurst (BP) 33.26; 21, Anna Reese (BP) 34.83.

200 dash wheelchair: 1, Stiernagle (MR) 57.89.

400 dash: 1, Caitlin Goette (NRHEG) 1:03.90; 3, Evelyn Nydegger (NRHEG) 1:07.64; 4, Clara Kniefel (Medford) 1:08.68; 9, Jayna Finseth (NRHEG) 1:13.17; 13, Wurst (BP) 1:14.68; 15, Sophie Thomas (BP) 1:16.18; 16, Josie Lorenz (BP) 1:20.55.

800 run: 1, Victoria Barkosky (MR) 2:28.71; 3, Journey Utpadel (NRHEG) 2:37.91; 5, Clara Kniefel (Medford) 2:45.23; 12, Ashleigh Alwes (BP) 3:16.45.

1,600 run: 1, Ryann Klammer (MR) 5:39.37; 4, Tori Vaale (NRHEG) 6:21.53; 7, Payton Ristau (Medford) 6:39.05; 8, Olivia Kofstad (NRHEG) 6:39.97; 12, Kelsey Walock (Medford) 7:06.29; 13, Alwes (BP) 7:07.25; 15, Emily Cloutier (Medford) 8:11.87.

3,200 run: 1, McKenna O'Connor (Hayfield) 13:41.23; 2, Micaela Vaale (NRHEG) 14:00.74; 3, Annabelle Petsinger (NRHEG) 14:08.40; 6, Abby Smith (BP) 14:19.82; 10, Walock (Medford) 14:54.42; 11, Asha Lighthizer (BP) 15:00.63.

100 hurdles: 1, Brianna Radatz (BA) 16.45; 2, Natalie Johnson (NRHEG) 18.05; 3, Racheal Oswald (BP) 18.09; 4, Greta Sunde (BP) 18.33; 8, Kathryn Kofstad (NRHEG) 21.25.

300 hurdles: 1, Radatz (BA) 48.57; 3, Natalie Johnson (NRHEG) 51.64; 4, Rachael Oswald (BP) 53.03; 5, Mackenzie Kellen (Medford) 54.62; 9, Kofstad (NRHEG) 59.32; 10 Megan Oswald (BP) 59.49.

400 relay: 1, WEM (Alexis Morsching, Toryn Richards, Hannah Petry, Harmon) 51.47; 2, Medford (Brooke Purrier, Kiley Nihart, Emma Kniefel, Rachael Luebbe) 52.81; 4, NRHEG (Borchert, Gushwa, Johnson, Strom) 56.50.

800 relay: 1, Medford (Brooke Purrier, Luebbe, Emma Kniefel, Nihart) 1:53.47; 2, NRHEG (Goette, Gushwa, Fischer, Finseth) 1:56.86; 3, Blooming Prairie (Braaten, Grace Krejci, Madi Lea, Larson) 1:58.01.

1,600 relay: 1, NRHEG (Finseth, Goette, Fischer, Utpadel) 4:30.46; Blooming Prairie (Anna Kittelson, Krejci, Lea, Larson) 4:37.66.

3,200 relay: 1, Hayfield (Maryx Young, O'Connor, Paetyn Stadler) 11:08.57; 3, NRHEG (Micaela Vaale, Tori Vaale, Petsinger, Olivia Kofstad) 11:23.44; 4, Blooming Prairie (Wurst, Megan Oswald, Isabelle Sunde, Smith) 12:07.06.

Shot put: 1, Lila Gronseth (Hayfield) 35-0.5; 3, Kinsey Cronin (Medford) 34-4.25; 7, Micalyn Trihus (BP) 31-4.5; 10, Hannah Budach (NRHEG) 27-2; 13, Jenna Berg (Medford) 26-5; 16, Diamond Woollard (NRHEG) 24-4.5; 17, Abby Fitzgerald (Medford) 24-2.75; 20, Virdiana Villarreal (BP) 22-4.25; 21, Marquette Millam (BP) 20-9.75.

Shot put wheelchair: 1, Stiernagle (MR) 11-11.5.

Discus: 1, Gronseth (Hayfield) 112-9; 3, Trihus (BP) 93-2; 4, Woollard (NRHEG) 93-1; 5, Darian Pearson (NRHEG) 92-4; 7, Budach (NRHEG) 88-9; 9, Cronin (Medford) 86-3; 13, Pauly (BP) 74-11; 15, Fitzgerald (Medford) 72-4; 19, Villarreal (BP) 62-9; 22, Berg (Medford) 60-4.

Discus wheelchair: 1, Stiernagle (MR) 24-7.

High jump: 1, Luebbe (Medford) 5-5; 5, Goette (NRHEG) 5-0; 9, Isabel DeLeon (Medford) 4-2; 10, Anna Pauly (BP) 4-0.

Pole vault: 1, Richards (WEM) 10-0; 4, Kellen (Medford) 7-6; 7, Isabelle Sunde (BP) 6-6; 10, Petsinger (NRHEG) 5-0.

Long jump: 1, Nihart (Medford) 15-10.25; 3, Emma Kniefel (Medford) 15-7.25; 9, Braaten (BP) 12-9.5; 10, Gushwa (NRHEG) 12-8; 11, Kellen (Medford) 12-7.5; 13, Fischer (NRHEG) 12-1; 14, Lea (BP) 12-1.

Triple jump: 1, Luebbe (Medford) 33-6.75; 3, Emma Kniefel (Medford) 32-6.5; 5, Kellen (Medford) 31-0; 10, Greta Sunde (BP) 27-7; 13, Megan Oswald (BP) 26-10.75; 17, Strom (NRHEG) 25-1.5.

Legion Auxiliary to sell poppies Friday

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

American Legion Auxiliary volunteers of Auxiliary Unit #52 in Blooming Prairie will distribute the familiar red, handcrafted poppies on Friday, May 24.

The bright colored poppies will be available 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. from 20 Auxiliary members at the following locations in Blooming Prairie: The Bakery, BP Post Office, Casey's General Store, Subway, Vandal's Market, Cue Company/ Pizza Cellar and at the BP Servicemen's Club.

Doris Rasmussen is chair of the local Legion Auxiliary poppy project this year. Mayor Curt Esplan reserved the first poppy to be sold on May 24.

The American Legion Auxiliary Post #52 and VFW Auxiliary Post 878 alternate years of distribution.

Planned to coincide with the Memorial Day holiday, the annual event pays tribute to those veterans who have died in the last 80 years.

Poppy Day also honors the millions of Americans who have willingly served their country in eight decades.

All proceeds from Poppy Day are invested in local programs for the benefit of veterans and their families.

Each nine-piece poppy is made by veterans for veterans in Auxiliary-sponsored Poppy shops that supplement physical and psychological therapy needed by hospitalized and disabled veterans.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz recently signed a proclamation making May Poppy Month.

In his proclamation, Gov. Walz said, "Many Minnesotans have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom and it is fitting that we recognize the courageous efforts of our veterans who have sacrificed the secure freedom and liberty for all americans . . ."

The symbolism behind the red flower goes back decades. It represents the sacrifice of lives in war and represented the hope that none had died in vein.

Millions of people worldwide wear the poppy as a call to honor living veterans and those who lost their lives.

Moina Michael in 1918 popularized the idea of wearing a poppy flower in memory of the lives lost in World War I. She drew inspiration from the poem "In Flanders Fields," written by World War I Col. John McCrae in his sorrow at looking at rows and rows of graves where his comrades had been buried.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Doris Rasmussen, chair of the Blooming Prairie American Legion Post 52 Auxiliary, reserves a poppy for Blooming Prairie Mayor Curt Esplan. Poppy Day will be observed in Blooming Prairie at seven different locations from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday.

Academic excellence

Congratulations to the students who earned a spot on the A and B Honor Roll at NRHEG.

A Honor Roll

Grade 6
Aronson, Violet
Bartlett, Owen
Broitzman, Andrew
Brunsen, Hannah
Dobberstein, Alden
Eads, Eden
Hagen, Benjamen
Johnson, Jozie
Kofstad, Madelynn
Krohn, Lainee
Martens, Carter
Misgen, Sierra
Morgan, Gracie
Riewer, Cohen
Sandry, Tayla
Schlaak, Aidan
Schlinger, Mallory
Stafford, Anju
Staloch, Seth
Starman, Grace
Tonkin, Jayden
Wencl, Olivia
Zimprich, Georgia

Grade 7
Borchert, Grace
Buendorf, Kia
Bunn, Parker
Bunn, Payton
Chrz, Jackson
Churchill, Julia
Karl, Graden
Kitzer, Levin
Kruger-Diaz, Jordis
Lenort, Keira
Lewer, Sydney
Loken, Addison
Mikesell, Kiyah
Mueller, McKenzie
Murray, Madison
Nielsen, Preslie
Nydegger, Evelyn
Olson, Samuel
Peterson, Erin
Petsinger, Annabelle
Roesler, George
Rollins, Debra
Schultz, Elsie
Schultz, Hallie
Sommer, Brenna
Stadheim, Isabel
Williams, Gracie

Grade 8
Boyd, Avyana
Briggs, Andrea
Chambers, Alexus
DenHerder, Levi
Deyle, Aidan
Domeier, Anton
Evans, Trinity
Fischer, Raquel
Ihrke, Bree
Jacobson, Erin
Kofstad, Olivia
Lembke, Taya
Nelson, Conner
Nelson, Valerie
Nolan, Andrew
Schlaak, Brady
Schultz, Sidney
Smith Vulcan, Tatum
Soulisak, Mayla
Sutter, Teagan
Thompson, Ethan
Wayne, Eva
Wilkenson, Grace

Grade 9
Dobberstein, Alex
Eads, Severin
Gushwa, Elsabet
Harpel, Cora
Horejsi, Jordan
Johannsen, Madison
Knudson, Brenlee
Kormann, Cassie
Kruger, Kylee
Kyllo, Ava
Martin, Rhys
Mueller, Matthew
Nicholson, Cameron
Peters, Ethan
Peterson, Anna
Peterson, Porter
Stork, Sophie
Utpadel, Journey
VanWinkle, Haley
Witikko, Alisa

Grade 10
Arndt, Cloie
Baker, Elli
Blowers, Bridgette
Bogue, Dakota
Crabtree, Hanna
Gaona Quezada, Luisa
Gushwa, Tewodros
Hagen, Zachary
Hancock, Tatianna
Huisman, Hannah
Jacobson, Anna
Johns, Sarah
Johnson, Kendall
Kitzer, Alexi
Knudson, Madison
Lee, Katie
Lim, Minna
Loken, Dylan
Martin, Cassidy
Nissen, Cambria
O'Brien, Christopher
Riewer, Caden
Strom, Lorelei
Tonkin, Jenika
Tufte, Grace

Grade 11
Combs, Alexandra
DenHerder, Madison
Domeier, Jayna
Fell, Evan
Ferber, Mason
Gushwa, Agro
Jameson, Emmablu
Jensen, Angelie
Kath, Summer
Kofstad, Grace
Malakowsky, Tiara
Maloney, Maggie
Nelson, Jenna
Peterson, Paige
Prigge, Annie
Retallick, Naomi
Sepulveda, Aracelis
Stene, Holly

Grade 12
Anderson, Alexis
Bueltel, Madisyn
Christopherson, Olivia
Goette, Caitlin
Horejsi, Rachel
Ignaszewski, Lexie
Jameson, Ellarose
Johnson, Aubrey
Peterson, Rebecca
Smith Vulcan, Tanner
Stenzel, Hailey
Wobschall, Brooke
Worrell, Laura

B Honor Roll

Grade 6
Anderson, Pierce
Cazares, Giselle
Cromwell, Harbor
Cummins, Ava
Eide, Kaylyn
Grinnen, Katelyn
Hanna , Aaden
Howe, Aryanna
Hutchens, Cole
Johannsen, Lia
Johnson, Jozlyn
Knudson, Jase
Koopal, Brady
Krueger, Owen
Kruger, Colton
Langfitt, Madisyn
Loverink, Lukas
Malecha, Brooke
McCamish, Bo
Muilenburg, Jay
Patten, Mayson
Reich, Avah
Riskedahl, Ian
Schiell, Logan
Schlaak, Carter
Schmidt, Laila
Seltun, Willa
Sletten, Gavin
Smith Vulcan, Talon
Stenzel, Aspyn
Weitzel, Rielly

Grade 7
Bell, Ned
Blatti, Anna
Briggs, Gavin
DenHerder, Aubri
Deniz- Clark, Danny
Gassmann, Amichai
Johnson, Carter
Johnson, Hunter
Malakowsky, Dacoda
Matheny, Elleana
Nielsen, Faith
Peters, Khara
Possin, Brian
Possin, Gracie
Routh, Clay
Routh, Reese
Schmidt, Tayler
Spies, Kyra
Tuttle, William
Wilson, Malonna

Grade 8
Beauvais, Sean
Beckmann, Evan
Berg, Aden
Besser, Tarynn
Borchert, Faith
Breitbarth, Haley
Butler, Natalie
Cain, Jared
Christensen, Samuel
Duncan, Rozlynn
Groskreutz, Wyatt
Ihrke, Bailey
Johannsen, Treyvin
Lageson, Jackson
Monrreal, Malu
Nissen, Charlie
Nolan, Zander
Phillips, Andrew
Pittman, Clair
Prigge, Sawyer
Rice, Kamryn
Smith Vulcan, Trinity
Strand, Brooklyn
Strom, Josie
Swenson, Spencer
Utpadel, Will
Wencl, Neela
Wilkenson, Gavin
Wobschall, Ashley
Zimmerman, Kately

Grade 9
Beck, Jaxon
Bogue, Hunter
Budach, Bo
Combs, Autumn
Gruenhagen, Rylee
LaCanne, Miranda
Lenort, Trevor
Myers, Quinton
Olson, Jack
Perez, Antonio
Petsinger, Nikolas
Rocha, Brittney
Stenzel, Clay
Vaale, Torri
Vanek, Nathan
Wilson, Tyrone

Grade 10
Barber, Alexis
Besser, Morgan
Borchert, Isaac
Chicos, Riley
Christenson, Tory
Dobberstein, Kelly
Duncan, Trenten
Fischer, Aubrey
Hill, Avery
Hinderscheit, T'Shayla
Johnson, Ashton
Johnson, Brody
King, Julia
Martin, Josh
Neste, Dakota
Nydegger, Daniel
Pittman, Charles
Purdie, Brianna
Schlaak, Kordell
Schultz, Riley
Seltun, Maxwell
Smith, Caleb
Solland, Cary
Stafford, Jonah
Staloch, Nicklas
Stencel, Carter
Techau, Courtney

Grade 11
Bailey, Andrew
Broton-Anderson, Madelyn
Cliff, Katie
Deyle, Addison
Ihrke, Blake
Karl, Elizabeth
Knudson, Paige
Kormann, Madison
Marcks, Cherysh
Williams, Mia

Grade 12
Agrimson, Brady
Arndt, Kylie
Arndt, Quinten
Buckmeier, Alexander
Budach, Hannah
Buendorf, Devin
Deml, Lawren
Finseth, Jayna
Fleming, Aaron
Gullickson, Shaun
Hogstad, Jack
Jacobson, Tyler
Johnson, Jazzlyn
Johnson, Madison
Knutson, Mackayla
Kohnert, Jacob
Kraay, Dalton
Lenort , Ross
Mosher, Dylan
Mrotz, Sophia
Nelson, Caitlyn
Pearson, Darian
Posey, Mariah
Schlinger, Sydney
Schuller, Jacob
Strom, Karenna
Surat, Jadyn
Thompson, Kallie
Tufte, Spencer
Westrum, Hailey

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FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 24, 2012
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $112,930.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Anthony B. Decristofaro, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 26, 2012 as Document Number A000387582 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, Block 1, Ray Nell Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1915 BIGELOW AVE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $72,005.09
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-259-0113
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 25, 2019 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on June 25, 2020.
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: April 29, 2019

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-0393-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

4/30, 5/7,5/14
5/21/5/28,6/4

NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of the mortgage dated November 22, 2005, executed by Don A. Hagen, a single person, as Mortgagor(s), to Wells Federal Bank, FSB, a federally-chartered savings bank, as Mortgagee(s), and filed for record November 29, 2005, in the Office of the County Recorders, Steele County, Minnesota as document number A000337214.
2. The Mortgage has been assigned as follows: No Assignments.
3.The maximum principal amount secured by the Mortgage was: $157,500.00.
4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof.
5. The holder of the Mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the Mortgage and foreclosure of the Mortgage, and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes.
6.At the date of this notice, the amount due on the Mortgage, and taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage is: $118,066.57.
7.Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the land located in Steele County, Minnesota and described as follows:
All that part of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ and all that part of the North Half of the SE ¼ of Section 30, Township 105 North, Range 19 West, Steele County, Minnesota, described by:
Commencing at the northeast corner of said SE ¼; thence South 0 degrees 15 minutes 31 seconds East, assumed bearing, 12.49 feet along the east line of said SE ¼ to the True Point of Beginning; thence North 88 degrees 35 minutes 44 seconds West 1123.68 feet; thence southwesterly along a tangential curve concave to the southeast, central angle 88 degrees 43 minutes 07 seconds, radius 116.50 feet, arc length 180.39 feet thence South 2 degrees 41 minutes 08 seconds West 158.58 feet; thence North 89 degrees 50 minutes 41 seconds West 175.91 feet; thence South 2 degrees 27 minutes 06 seconds East 410.13 feet; thence North 89 degrees 36 minutes 20 seconds East 367.42 feet; thence North 15 degrees 53 minutes 43 seconds East 422.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 50 minutes 41 seconds West 291.59 feet; thence North 2 degrees 41 minutes 08 seconds East 157.12 feet; thence northeasterly along a tangential curve concave to the southeast, central angle 88 degrees 43 minutes 07 seconds, radius 83.50 feet, arc length 129.29 feet; thence South 88 degrees 35 minutes 44 seconds East 1124.64 feet to the east line of said SE ¼; thence North 0 degrees 15 minutes 31 seconds West 33.01 feet to said True Point on Beginning.
will be sold by the sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota at public auction on July 9, 2019 at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 E. Pearl Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.
8. The time allowed by law for redemption by the Mortgagor, the Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is 6 months after the date of sale.
9. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.
10. Unless the mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, the mortgagor and/or its assigns must vacate the property by 11:59 p.m. on January 9, 2020.
11. In order to comply with Minn. Stat. Section 580.025, the undersigned hereby states that the following information is correct to the best of its knowledge:
(a) The street address and tax identification number of the mortgaged property:

15380 44th Avenue SE
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Tax Identification Number:
01-030-2101

(b) Transaction agent and transaction agent's mortgage identification number: N/A
(c) Residential mortgage servicer, broker and/or originator: N/A
(d) Lender: Citizens Community Federal successor by merger with Wells Federal Bank, FSB
12. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Dated: May 9, 2019

Citizens Community Federal successor by merger with Wells Federal Bank, FSB, Mortgagee
By:_/s/ David A. Lutz
David A. Lutz
Attorney for Mortgagee
120 South 6th Street,
Suite 1550
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-424-2110

5/14, 5/21, 5/28
6/4, 6/11, 6/18

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 30, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $134,564.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Traci A. Langstaff, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Advisors Mortgage, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 1, 2010 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 17761 as Document Number T000066016 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on March 20, 2019 as Document Number T000077114 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 5, Block 1, Maplewood Terrace Townhouses No. 2, Owatonna, Minnesota, Steele County, Minnesota.
REGISTERED PROPERTY
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 13 AUGUSTA PLACE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $116,733.06
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Advisors Mortgage, LLC
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-421-0105
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100199600012390478
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on January 9, 2020.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: May 16, 2019

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-0454-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5/21, 5/28, 6/4
6/11, 6/18, 6/25

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA March 18, 2019

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM –
No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK Jenny Thurnau, John Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell; Kelly Braaten

ALSO PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, BPTA Members; Member of the Press

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the March payroll amount. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Principal reports were given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignation, Donations
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignation, and donations as presented. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)

B. Employment
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the employment of Anthony Cornell as a Special Education Teacher at the high school effective February 26, 2019 through May 31, 2019. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the employment of Anthony Cornell as a junior high baseball coach. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Steve Ille and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the employment of Justin Kiehne as JV baseball. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the employment of Jenna Volgarino as the Elementary Science Fair Advisor. Motion carried. (4 Aye/0 Nay/1 Abstention-Krell)
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the employment of Brynn Rhodes as Speech-Language Pathologist starting with the 2019-20 school. Motion carried.
(5 Aye/0 Nay)

C. Superintendent Contract
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to approve a three-year Superintendent Contract for Christopher Staloch with an effective date of July 1, 2019. Motion carried.
(Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye-Thurnau, Sunde, Ille, Krell, Braaten/0 Nay).

D. Volunteer Coaches
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve Tyler Krekling as a volunteer softball coach. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)

E. Weather Days
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve two days of pay for the non-certified paraprofessionals and clerical staff that missed numerous days/hours of work due to inclement weather. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)

F. Class Sizes/Sections
Programs are being reviewed due to possible changes. Discussion. No action required.

G. Prom DJ
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the DJ for Prom. Services to be provided by Midwest Sound. Prom will be hosted with the St. Croix Boat & Packet Company. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Committee Reports
A report update was given on the following committee: Education Foundation, Negotiations, and ZED.

B. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2018-19 school year as of March 13, 2019, was 415 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 338 at the high school (grades 7-12) (333 attending BPHS and 5 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 3 seniors and 2 juniors with attendance being full-time.

C. Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
1. BPTA Negotiations
2. Safety Grant
3. Part-time clerical position opening at the high school
4. Elementary Principal position opening
5. Mr. Krell thanked all of those involved with the hiring process for the new Superintendent of Schools.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.
Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)

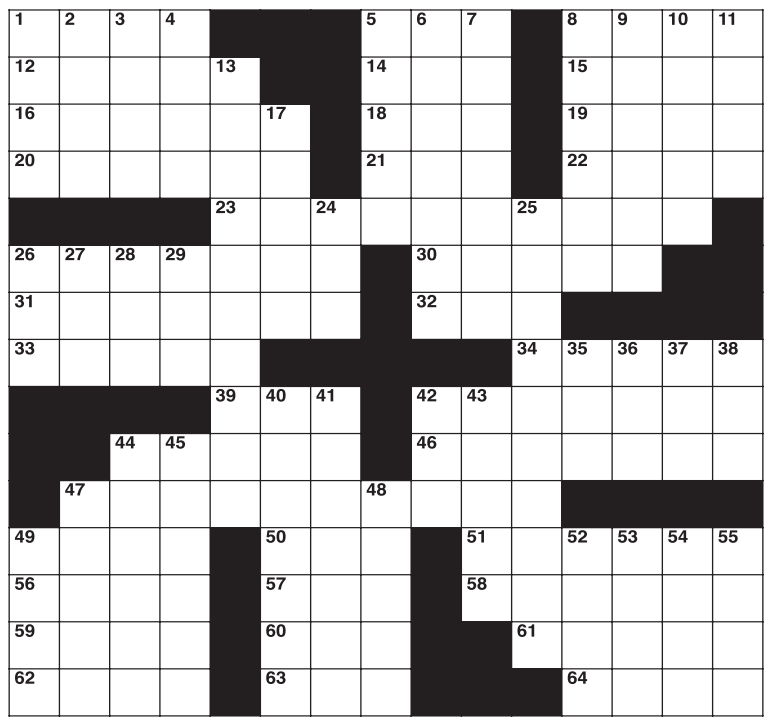
Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, April 15, 2019, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Thurnau
Pro Tempore Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

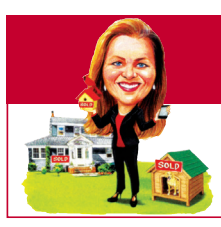
5/21

CLUES ACROSS
1. W. Loman's failed son
5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
8. Wanes
12. Lifeless geologic period
14. No (Scottish)
15. Filled chocolate cookie
16. Circular chordophones
18. Short-term memory
19. Any small compartment
20. Poisonous gas
21. Cologne
22. Scaleless fishes
23. Ormolu
26. Well-known & respected
30. Man-made river embankment
31. Yearned after something
32. Before
33. Garlic mayonnaise
34. California white oak
39. CNN's founder Turner
42. Removed contents
44. Frighten
46. Responded
47. "Extant" star
49. Aba _____ Honeymoon
50. Box (abbr.)
51. Reptile leather
56. Norse goddess of old age
57. Drive obliquely, as of a nail
58. Inspire with love
59. Affirm positively
60. European sea eagle



61. Congresswoman Giffords
62. Emit coherent radiation
63. Fall back time
64. Masses of fish eggs

CLUES DOWN
1. Leavened rum cake
2. Moslem women's garment
3. Quilting duo: _____ & Porter
4. S W Pacific state
5. The start of something
6. Edible
7. More coy
8. From 56 to 34 million years ago
9. Small wind
10. Disney heroine
11. Helios
13. Existing at birth but not hereditary
17. Paris river
24. Confined condition (abbr.)
25. More than charged
26. A major division of geological time
27. Japanese apricot
28. Initial public offering
29. A quantity of no importance
35. Securities market
36. Sharp part of a tool
37. Downwind
38. Doctor of Education
40. Built up
41. Borrowers
42. Stray
43. Country singer Haggard
44. Eurasian marten pelts
45. Fashion magazine Marie ____
47. Turkish candy
48. Regarding
49. Distribute game cards
52. Princess Anne's daughter
53. Planned pipeline from Burgas to Vlore
54. An academic gown
55. Removes moisture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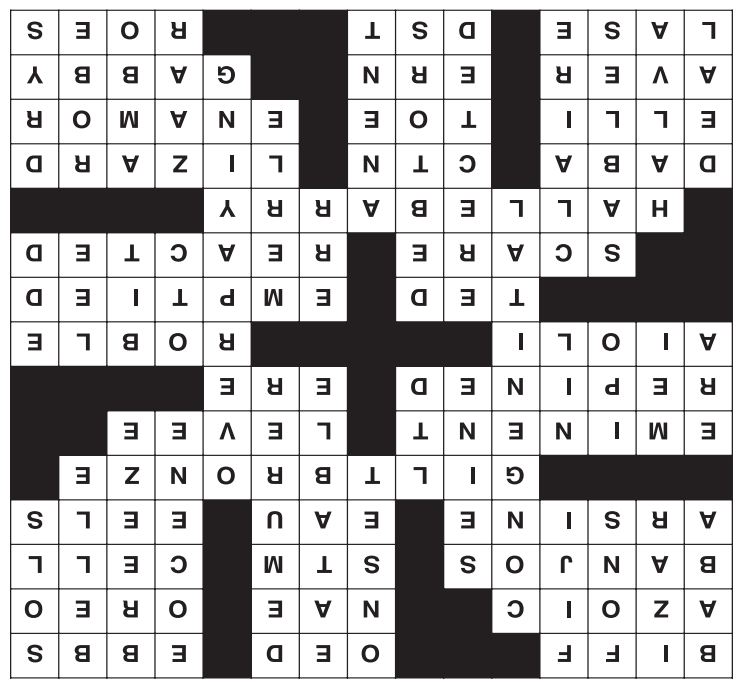

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NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA March 14, 2019

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2019, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Dean Meshke

ALSO PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the March 18, 2019, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

5/21

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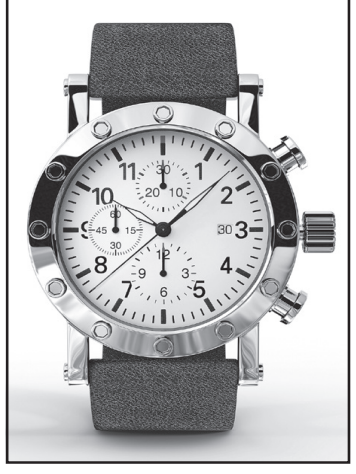

NOTICE

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE**

**DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE COURT DIVISION**

Court File No:
74-PR-19-538

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of

Nina Mae Rogers,
Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of June, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at 111 E. Main St., Owatonna, MN 55060, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated May 18, 2018, and for the appointment of Shirley Rogers f/k/a Shirley Schneidereit, whose address is 242 1st Street NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That if proper, and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legals debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completions of the administration, the representative shall file a finial account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Clerk of the Court within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court

Jason J. Iacovino
Attorney at Law
HENEFIELD & IACOVINO
LAW OFFICE
415 E.Main St.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
507-583-6663
Attorney Registration Number 386770

5/21, 5/28

FOR SALE

PIANOS, DIGITAL PIANOS, Rodgers Church Organs - New, Used, Sales & Service - Call DEWEY KRUGER MUSIC, Northwood, Iowa, 800-933-5830, deweykrugermusic.com

JOHN DEERE 4430 TRACTOR WITH 5560 hours, 1 owner. John Deere 8285R Tractor with 135 hours and a John Deere 980 30' Field Cultivator. Excellent shape. Retired Farmer. Call 641-425-9300

FOR SALE TO BE MOVED. Minnesota Department of Transportation owned buildings and structures located at two sites near Claremont, MN. Items include two pole sheds, a well house, two grain bins, and four feed bins. Items to be sold individually by sealed bid on Thursday, June 6, at 10 A.M. at the MnDOT Office in Rochester. Buildings will be open for inspection on Thursday, May 23 from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. Call Brandon Marsh at (507) 286-7612, or visit www.dot.state.mn.us/row/propsales.html for more information. (wk 23 chg)

7 OLD DODGE COUNTY PLOT and Atlas books (1905-1969). Good condition. If interested call 507-450-5395. (23,24,25 chg)

Alexis Anderson
Graduation Open House

Saturday, June 8
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

12477 52nd Ave. SW
Ellendale

EMPLOYMENT

PCA CAREGIVER needed every other Saturday from 7 a.m. -7 p.m. $12 hourly no heavy lifting. NW Rochester. If interested please call 507-289-2757 (22,23,24 pd)

GARAGE SALES

CLEARANCE SALE: MAY 23, MAY 24 AND 25 all day 2 spinning wheels, crib/youth bed combo, computer desk, Nordic track, 30" girl cement golf statue, cradle with doll, small furniture, lots of items, collectibles. Any reasonable offer accepted. 507-993-0657. (23,24,25 pd)

12 4TH AVE NE DODGE CENTER May 24 8-5pm and May 25 8-noon Kids toys, 6 dining room chairs, microwave, pictures, kitchen island cart, tools, kid's kitchen set- 3 pieces, foldup utility trailer- never used. Kid's folding lawn chair, camping items, lot of misc. (wk 23)

WANTED

WANTED Alfalfa mix small bales for horses, no rain, Byron/Kasson area. Delivered, if possible. 507-365-8959 (wk 21,22,23 pd)

FOR RENT

2 BD ~ CLAREMONT Open May! Rent from $555 p/mo + elec. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity Wk 20,21,22,23

HAYFIELD-FOR RENT-Great Western Apartments. Large 1 bedroom apartment, includes all utilities, laundry onsite. Available NOW. Must have proof of employment, call (507)796-0152 or (701)330-9788. (wk 21-23 chg)

KASSON 1 BD APT for 62+ or disabled persons. Smoke free, month to month leases & Deposit payment plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestlyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. (wk 21,22,23,24 chg)

2BD-CLAREMONT Open May! Rent from $555 p/mo + elec. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. (wk 22,23,24,25 chg)

LAND FOR RENT

DAVID AND PAUL STANTON FARMS are looking to expand existing corn and soybean operations in Hayfield and surrounding areas. Call Paul Stanton at 507-951-0914 or David Stanton at 507-951-0915 (51 chg tfn)

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FLOWER SHOW
Thursday
August 1st 2019
at the Servicemen's club - Blooming Prairie exhibitor
entry categories will be similar to last year. The Exhibit will include several Classes for the flower or plant entries, prizes, and lunch.
Plant Now and Plan to be a part of a great event!

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Resident Assistant
- PT 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- PT 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- FT & PT 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- FT &PT 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.

Dining Assistant
- PT 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cook
- FT 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Prairie Meadows SENIOR LIVING

Apply at: 800 5th Ave. NW, Kasson, MN • EOE

BUS DRIVERS

Semcac's Rolling Hills Transit, is looking for **Full-Time and Part-Time bus drivers** for their Kasson service area.

Excellent benefit package including paid holidays, vacation, and sick leave. CDL License with passenger endorsement required, or we will help train for it.

More information & application available at **www.semcac.org,** or by contacting Barb Thompson at 507-864-8202 or barb.thompson@semcac.org.

Position open until filled. E.O.E.

KASSON - MANTORVILLE KOMETS

KASSON-MANTORVILLE SCHOOL

has the following positions available beginning September 2019.

- **Elementary School Special Education Paraprofessional**
- **Bus Driver (full route)**
- **Substitute Bus and Van Drivers**

Please complete an application on-line at
www.komets.k12.mn.us
and include a resume, application letter, transcripts and reference letters.

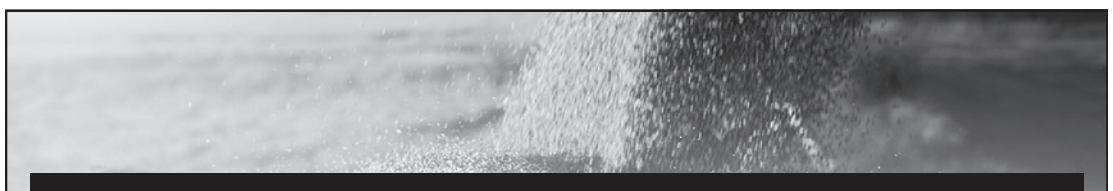
CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Hairdresser Needed for Assisted Living

Salon Manager's License Required
Run your own business; 1-2days/week
Call Laura for more info 634-9500

Prairie Meadows SENIOR LIVING

Apply at: 800 5th Ave. NW, Kasson, MN • EOE



Central Farm Service, Hayfield has an immediate opening for a Grain Elevator Operator. In this position, the team member will be responsible for the daily operation of grain facilities. Essential duties & responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Receiving in and loading out grain
- Monitoring stored grain to ensure quality
- Maintenance and housekeeping

CFS
THE POWER OF PROGRESS

Desired Minimum Qualifications:
- Graduation from high school or GED equivalent
- Willingness to obtain commercial driver's license

Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, Life, PTO, Company Paid Short/Long-term Disability, Matching 401k, Defined Pension Plan and more.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply at www.cfscoop.com click on Careers or contact Kim Jones at (507)-438-4471

CFS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

MAINTENANCE WORKER

The City of Dodge Center, MN, seeks a Maintenance Worker.

General Duties:
The position works to maintain and repair public facilities to ensure these facilities are safe and usable for the general public.

Minimum Requirements:
Minimum qualifications include two (2) years of experience with equipment operation and general maintenance activities, possession of a Class B CDL with airbrake certification, and possession of a Class D Water Operator's License (or the ability to obtain within two (2) years of employment). Desired qualifications include possession of a Certified Pool Operator's certificate.
Wage range: $20.70/hour to $24.07/hour DOQ.

Apply:
Additional information available online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.
Please submit an application in person at City Hall, electronically to
jtetzlaff@ci.dodgecenter.mn.us, or by mailing to
City of Dodge Center, Maintenance Worker Search,
P.O. Box 430, Dodge Center, MN 55927.
A City application must be submitted to be considered for the position. This position will remain open until filled, with the first review of applications taking place on June 3, 2019. For more information, contact City Administrator Joshua Tetzlaff at jtetzlaff@ci.dodgecenter.mn.us or by calling 507-374-2575.

Parks & Recreation

"Your Best Investment"
City of Owatonna

Owatonna PARKS and RECREATION

540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna • Office Phone: 507-444-4321 • www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation

Parks and Recreation Contact Information:

Office & Cancellation Line 507-444-4321
Fax 507-444-4299
Facebook: Owatonna Parks and Recreation
Email Address: parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us
River Springs Water Park 507-774-7370
Tennis & Fitness Center 507-444-4290
West Hills Social Commons 507-444-4280
Brooktree Clubhouse 507-444-2467
Park Maintenance: 507-774-7086

OUR MISSION:
The city of Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department provides a diverse system of green spaces, trails, facilities, programs and services to enhance the quality of life for the community.

Ways to Register:

- On-Line: www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration
- Walk-In Registration: (begins at 7:00 a.m.) at the Park and Recreation office at 540 West Hills Circle.
- Call In: Call our office at 507-444-4321

Employment Opportunities

• Lifeguard • Water Aerobics Instructor-Substitute • Swim Lesson Instructor (Water Safety Instructor)
Apply online today at agency.governmentjobs.com/owatonnamn/default.cfm

May 25: Lake Kohlmier rentals open
May 28: Little League kickoff
June 3: Little Tykes Sports Camp begins
June 4: Adult Bean Bag league begins
June 5: T-ball and Squirt Ball coaches meeting
June 7: River Springs Water Park opens!
June 7: Season Pass Food Discount day at RSWP
June 7: Lap Swim & Water Walking begins at RSWP
June 7: Adult Leisure Pursuits Spirit Level at Day Trippers in Bloomington registration deadline
June 9: Family Day special at RSWP
June 10: T-ball and Squirt Ball begin this week
June 10: Summer Track & Field begins
June 10: Session 1 – Little Outdoor Adventurers-Nature Camp through the Seasons
June 10: Junior Tennis program begins
June 11: Learn to skate hockey begins
June 12: Mill City Museum registration deadline
June 13: Rec on the Go-Willow Run Townhomes
June 13-14: Steele County Safety Camp
June 14: Therapeutic Rec Friday Camp begins
June 16: Father's Day special at RSWP
June 17: Session 1 swim lessons begin this week
June 17: STEM Camp II Session 1
June18: Power of Produce begins at North Marker Farmers Market Grace Baptist Church
June 20: Rec on the Go-Owatonna Education Center (old Washington school)
June 21: Season Pass Food Discount day at RSWP
June 23: RSWP Ducky Dash
June 24: Session 2- Little Outdoor Adventurers-Nature Camp through the Seasons
June 24: Session 1-Big Outdoor Adventurers-Nature Camp through the Seasons
June 25: Adult Leisure Pursuits Membership Picnic and Dance
June 27: Rec on the Go-Brown Park
July 5: Season Pass Food Discount day at RSWP
July 8: Session 2 swim lessons begin this week
July 8: STEM Camp II Session 2
July 8: STEM Camp III ONLY session
July 12: Movie in the Park-Lincoln Soccer Complex
July 12-14: Owatonna's 9th Annual Weekend Out
July 15: Session 2 – Big Outdoor Adventurers-Nature Camp through the Seasons
July 15: STEM Camp I Session 1
July 17: MN Twins Bus Trip
July 18: Rec on the Go-Manthey Park
July 19: Season Pass Food Discount day at RSWP
July 22: Session 3 swim lessons begin this week
July 22: STEM Camp II Session 3
July 23: Fall Brochure released
July 25: Adult Fall Softball Registration deadline
July 25: Adult Fall Kickball Registration deadline
July 25: Rec on the Go-Owatonna Education Center (old Washington school)
July 25-27: Crazy Days
July 29: STEM Camp I Session 2
August 1: Rec on the Go-Willow Run Townhomes
August 2: Season Pass Food Discount day at RSWP
August 5: Session 3 – Big Outdoor Adventurers-Nature Camp through the Seasons
August 5: Aviation Discovery
August 6-8: Aviation Exploration
August 16: Season Pass Food Discount day at RSWP
August 24: Woofstock

Drinking water helps maintain the balance of body fluids including digestions, absorption, and circulation! The Parks and Rec department maintains over 30 drinking fountains throughout the city parks. Keep yourself hydrated while you bike our trails by taking advantage of this resource.

Summer Programs:

- T-Ball
- Squirt Ball
- Day Camps
- Little Tykes Camps
- Learn to Skate Hockey
- Track
- Tennis Lessons
- Swim Lessons

Special Events

- Rec on the Go
- Steele County Safety Camp
- Owatonna Weekend Out
- Movies in the Park
- Calendar Photo Contest

Programs coming in the Fall Brochure (released July 23)

- Football
- Volleyball
- Swim Lessons
- Basketball

Brooktree Golf Course

Purchase your season passes in-person at the Parks and Recreation office, 540 West Hills Circle. Available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monthly payment plans may be set up for any number of months, as long as the membership is paid in full by October 1st. Discounts available for Adult Leisure Pursuits members (formerly SeniorPlace).

River Springs Water Park 2019

2019 open swim hours
June 6-Aug 11 — Monday-Sunday – 12:00-8:00pm
(Closing times may vary beginning August 12)
Aug 12-Aug 18 — Monday-Sunday – 12:00-7:00pm

2019 Season Passes

Individual Season Pass: $85.00
Family Season Pass: Includes 3 people $180.00
($20.00 for each additional person)

2019 Pass Books

10 passes: $65.00 – 30 passes: $165.00

Kappys COLLISION CENTER
OWATONNA'S COLLISION SPECIALIST
STAY HAPPY
www.kappysauto.com
kappysauto@gmail.com
Now using PPG Waterborne Paint
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Charlie & Al Kaplan
507-451-8989

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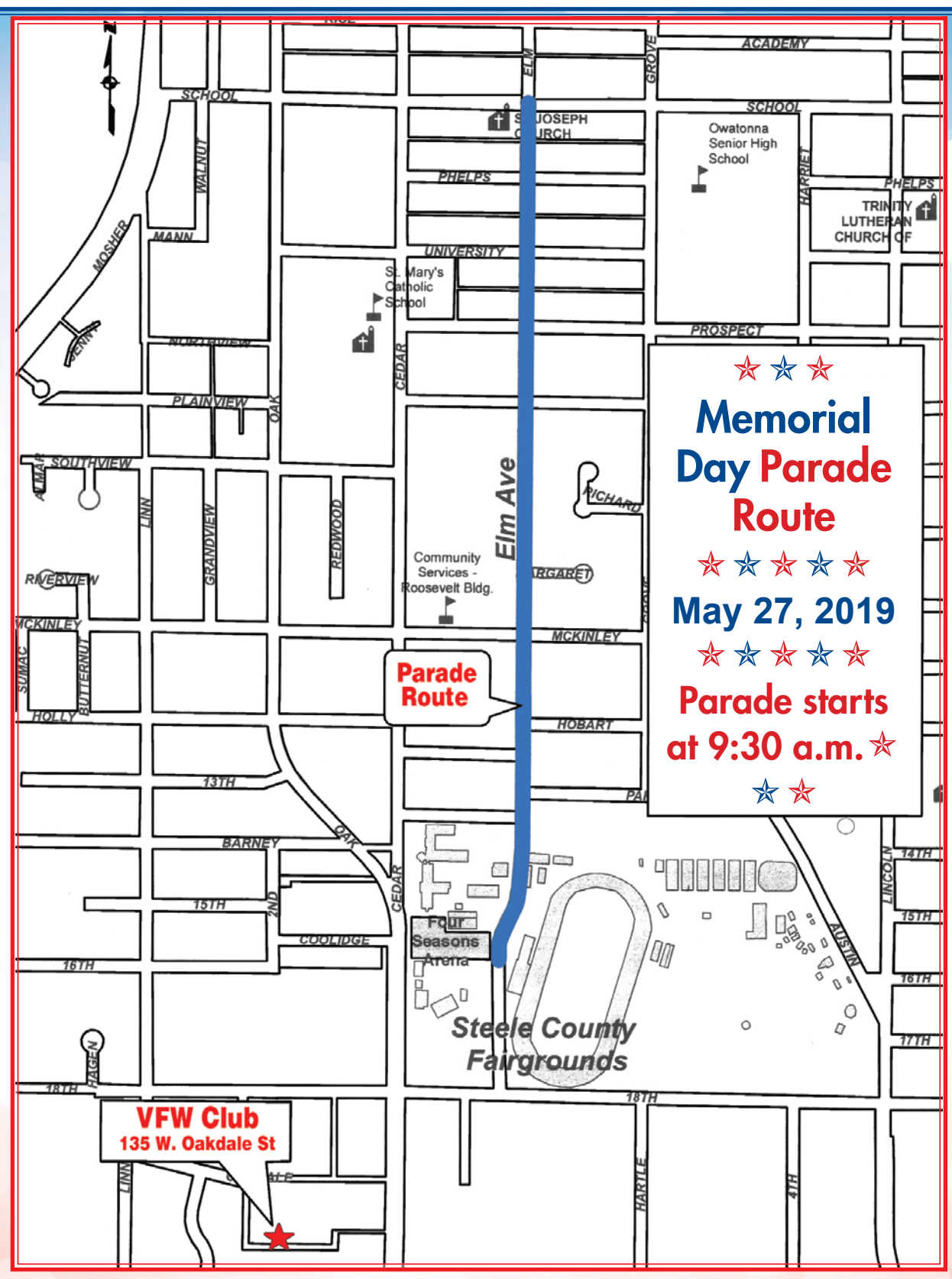
Your source for all your flooring needs
Call Us Now for a Consultation!
Tim Wacek • 583-2276 • 322 E. Main, Blooming Prairie | Derek Reichl • 552-1637 • 2201 E. Main St., Albert Lea

PARADE ROUTE

Commences at the corner of South Elm Avenue & East School Street, moving South on Elm to the Four Seasons Building located at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

Parade to start at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Questions:
If anyone has questions regarding the parade or program, call the VFW Monday morning between 7:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. 507-451-1001



MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The Memorial Day program will commence at the Four Seasons Building following the parade, at approximately 10:30 a.m.

If the parade is cancelled due to weather, the program will still be held at 10:30 a.m. in the FourSeasons Building. Weather cancellation announcements for the parade will be made by 9:00 a.m. Monday morning of the 27th.

VFW Post 3723 & American Legion Post 77
Owatonna MN
507-451-1001